

HARD LINE

**ALBERT AJI
BASSEM MROUE**
Associated Press
DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) —
Russia took a hard line Tues-



French FM Laurent Fabius and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov shake hands at the end of their news conference after their meeting in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

day as it insisted that a U.N. Security Council resolution governing Syria's handling of its chemical weapons not allow the use of force, but it suggested that could change if Damascus reneges on the deal to give up its stockpile.

The main Syrian opposition coalition, meanwhile, urged the international community to take swift action against the regime of President Bashar Assad in response to a U.N. finding that the nerve agent sarin was used in a deadly attack near the capital last month.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said his country "spoke clearly" about rejecting the use of force when the chemical weapons agreement was worked out Saturday in Geneva between Washington and Moscow. The plan calls for an inventory of Syria's chemical weapons within a week, with all components of the program out of the country or destroyed by mid-2014.

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RED FLAGS MISSED



Naval Yard gunman exhibited signs of mental illness

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, right, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, second from right, present a wreath at the Navy Memorial in Washington to remember the victims of Monday's deadly shooting at the Washington Navy Yard, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN
SARAH MASLIN NIR
TIMOTHY WILLIAMS**
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WASHINGTON - The former Navy reservist who killed 12 people in a shooting rampage at the Washington Navy Yard on Monday had exhibited signs of mental illness dating back more than a decade, including a recent episode in which he complained about hearing voices and of people sending "vibrations to his body" to prevent him from sleeping, law enforcement officials said Tuesday. Only a month ago, the gunman, Aaron Alexis, 34, was suffering from hallucinations so severe that he called the Newport Police Department in Rhode Island where he told officers he was on business.

When officers came to his hotel room on Aug. 7 at 6 a.m., Alexis told them that he had gotten into an argument with someone at an airport in Virginia. He said the person he had argued with "had sent three people to follow him and to keep him awake by talking to him and sending vibrations to his body" via a microwave machine, according to a police report. Alexis had moved to three different hotels in a single night to elude strange voices and people he believed were sending the microwave vibrations. At a hotel at a nearby naval base, Alexis told the police that he had heard "voices speaking to him through the wall, flooring and ceiling," said Lt. William Fitzgerald of the Newport police.

Alexis told officers that he "had never felt anything like this before," and that "he was worried these people were going to harm him," Fitzgerald said. "He said he never had a history of mental illness," Fitzgerald said. The police told Alexis to stay away from the individuals he believed were following him. "No further action was required," Fitzgerald said in a telephone interview Tuesday, reading from the police report. Still such incidents seemed to be part of a pattern. One official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the continuing investigation, said that Alexis had been exhibiting symptoms of mental illness since at least his early 20s, before

he joined the naval reserve and then went on to be a military contractor. The official said Alexis has been described by people who knew him as paranoid and delusional. It is not clear whether Alexis sought medical treatment. On Monday, Alexis entered the Navy Yard, a secure military facility near the Capitol, killing at least 12 people before he was fatally shot by the authorities. The police say Alexis acted alone. President Barack Obama on Tuesday directed the Office of Management and Budget to "examine security standards for employees and contractors across federal agencies," said Jay Carney, the White House press secretary.

Continued on Page 4

AP survey:

Sluggish global economic recovery ahead

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A robust recovery for the global economy remains well out of reach.

That's the view that emerges from a survey of economists just as the Federal Reserve is expected this week to reduce its stimulus for the U.S. economy.

Europe has finally emerged from recession. Japan is growing after two decades of stagnation. And the United States is trudging ahead. Yet an Associated

barely above 1 percent in the second half of 2013 and in 2014. From April through June, the eurozone eked out its first quarterly growth after 18 months of contraction — a 1.2 percent annual rate. No acceleration is foreseen in the next year and a half.

The United States and Japan are expected to fare only slightly better.

The economists think the U.S. economy will grow at a 2.3 percent annual rate in the second half of 2013 and 2.6 percent in 2014.

at Economic Analysis Associates.

The AP survey collected the views of private, corporate and academic economists on a range of issues. Among their views:

— The Fed will start reducing its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases after its latest policy meeting ends Wednesday. The initial cut in purchases will be small — \$10 billion a month. The Fed's bond purchases have been intended to keep long-term loan rates low to induce people to

Chairman Ben Bernanke first suggested that the Fed could slow its purchases by year's end.

— The biggest obstacles to faster U.S. growth vary — from tepid job and pay growth to the lingering squeeze from a Social Security tax increase and government spending cuts to doubts about whether Congress will raise the government's borrowing cap. If the cap isn't raised, the United States could default on its debt by mid-October. That would risk a downgrade of U.S. credit.

— The U.S. unemployment rate won't return to a range associated with a healthy economy — roughly 5 percent to 6 percent — before 2015 and perhaps not until 2016 or later. The rate is now 7.3 percent. It rose as high as 10 percent during the recession and has been falling steadily. But the rate has been falling, in large part, for a discouraging reason: More people have stopped looking for work. Once people without a job stop looking for one, the government no longer counts them as unemployed.

— Congress should not increase the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Some economists warn that a higher minimum wage could lead some employers to hold back on hiring lower-wage workers. That could escalate unemployment, they say. The economists' dim outlook for the recovery in many advanced economies coincides with a slowdown in some key emerging economies after years of powerful growth.

China's growth, for example, slowed in the second quarter to 7.5 percent — explosive by the standards of developed countries but the slowest pace for China in two decades. The economists surveyed by the AP foresee little change through 2014.

The economists note that aging populations may be holding back growth in Japan and Europe. □

Brazil leader postpones US trip on spying

BRADLEY BROOKS

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Tuesday postponed a state visit to the U.S. to protest an American spy program that has aggressively targeted the Latin American nation's government and private citizens alike.

Rousseff was to be honored with a state dinner next month, an event meant to highlight strengthening ties between the Western Hemisphere's two biggest nations.

Instead, revelations of the National Security Agency's spy program and Rousseff's dissatisfaction with the U.S. response to questions about the espionage made it impossible to continue with that trip for now, her office said in a statement.

"Given the proximity of the scheduled state visit to Washington and in the absence of a timely investigation ... there aren't conditions for this trip to be made," the statement read. "The Brazilian government is confident that when the question is settled in an adequate manner, the state visit can quickly occur."

The decision comes after a series of reports on Brazil's Globo TV gave details about the NSA program's efforts in Brazil.

American journalist Glenn Greenwald, who is based in Rio de Janeiro and broke the story of the NSA espionage program after obtaining leaked documents from Edward Snowden, has worked with Globo on its reports.

They have included revelations that Rousseff's communications with aides were intercepted, that the NSA hacked the computer network of state-run oil company Petrobras, and that the NSA scooped up data on billions of emails and telephone calls flowing through Brazil, an important hub for trans-Atlantic fiber optic cables. □



Investors look at Tokyo's high-rise buildings. An Associated Press poll released Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013 of more than two dozen economists suggests that global growth will remain below full health into 2014. Japan, meanwhile, will grow 2.6 percent in the second half of this year and just 2.2 percent in 2014, the economists predict.

(AP Photo/Shuji Kajiyama)

Press survey of more than two dozen economists suggests that global growth will remain below full health this year and next.

Persistently weak growth would make it harder to resolve many of the world's biggest economic challenges. They include historically high unemployment in Europe, sluggish spending by consumers and businesses in the United States, heavy government debts in Europe and Japan, and unstable economies in some emerging nations.

The economists think the 17 nations that use the euro will grow at an annual rate

Japan is expected to grow 2.2 percent next year — far weaker than its 3.8 percent growth rate from April through June.

Normally, a healthy expansion in advanced economies produces annual growth of 3 percent or better. The United States expanded at an average pace of 3.25 percent from 1976 through 2007. But it hasn't grown at a 3 percent rate or faster since 2005.

"Most economies are growing so slowly ... you don't know one day from the next if it's getting better or getting worse," said Susan Sterne, an economist

borrow and spend. Though U.S. hiring and growth remain soft, some Fed officials don't think the bond purchases are doing much good anymore.

— "Tapering," as the Fed's expected pullback in bond purchases has come to be known, won't significantly disrupt the U.S. stock and bond markets. "That's because it's been so well-telegraphed," said Jerry Webman, chief economist at OppenheimerFunds. Investors have already driven up the yield on the 10-year Treasury bond about 1.2 percentage points beyond its level in late May, when

Emergency calls decline in Colorado

**JERI CLAUSING
P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press
HYGIENE, Colorado (AP)**

— Colorado rescue crews said Tuesday that emergency calls were dropping after they rescued hundreds more people stranded by floodwaters. State officials reported six flood-related deaths, plus two women missing and presumed dead. The number was expected to increase. It could take weeks or even months to search through flooded areas looking for people who died.

Hundreds were still missing, but that number has been decreasing, with the state's latest count below 650 people. Officials hoped the number of missing would continue declining as the stranded get in touch with families.

By Tuesday, the number of emergency airlifts was tapering off and helicopter crews methodically searched for those who still need help in the areas that remained inaccessible by ground. More than 2,300 people and 850 pets have been airlifted to safety by Tuesday, according to the Colorado National Guard. "They've kind of transitioned from that initial response to going into more of a grid search," Colorado National Guard Lt. Skye Robinson said.

Residents of Hygiene, a small community east of the Rocky Mountain foothills, returned home Monday to find homes destroyed and mud blanketing roads. The St. Vrain Creek left trucks in ditches and carried items as far as 2 miles (3 kilometers) downstream.

"My own slice of heaven, and it's gone," Bill Marquardt said of his home. Residents set to sweeping, shoveling and rinsing, but the rebuilding task was overwhelming.

"What now? We don't even know where to start," said Genevieve Marquez. □

Jersey Shore boardwalk fire is ruled accidental

**PATRICK MCGEEHAN
© 2013 New York Times
TOMS RIVER, N.J.** - Investigators have determined

wiring that may have been compromised by water and sand from Hurricane Sandy last fall.

the Boardwalk near a small building that housed a Kohr's frozen custard stand and a candy shop. Winds

a spokesman for the prosecutor's office, said the investigators described a "flueing effect" that drew the fire up the Boardwalk.

The prosecutor's finding clears the way for the owners of the ruined businesses, including William Majors, who owns the pier, to seek payments from insurance policies. Coronato said it afforded them "the ability to now take measures to rebuild and recover."

Gov. Chris Christie has promised \$15 million for businesses damaged by the fire, out of the money earmarked for storm repairs.

Cheryl Raley, the owner of a Seaside Park motel who was on the Boardwalk just after the fire started, said that her business could not survive a summer without the Boardwalk. She said that while her motel was not damaged by the fire, she had already spent \$87,000 repairing storm damage and had not received any payments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or any other source to offset those costs.

"The money has to come like really, really fast" to save the businesses that burned, Raley said. "If you miss a season, you're done." □



Ocean County prosecutor Joseph Coronato speaks about the results of a boardwalk fire investigation during a news conference in Toms River, N.J., Sept. 17, 2013. Investigators have determined that the fire that consumed several blocks of the boardwalk in Seaside Park, N.J., was caused by an electrical problem.

(Richard Perry/The New York Times)

that the devastating fire that consumed several blocks of the Boardwalk in nearby Seaside Park last week was caused by an electrical wiring problem, and was not set intentionally.

But the hidden culprit may well have been Hurricane Sandy.

On Tuesday afternoon, county officials declared the fire accidental, saying that it was caused by a malfunction of electrical

The Ocean County prosecutor, Joseph D. Coronato, said he would close the criminal investigation into the fire because the team of local, state and federal investigators had "unanimously determined" that the fire was not started intentionally. Indeed, he added, the sand piled up under the Boardwalk left the spot where the fire broke out "completely inaccessible" to humans.

The fire started beneath

that gusted to 30 miles per hour quickly spread the flames along the wooden pilings that held up the Boardwalk, igniting dozens of shops and arcades.

Local residents who were near the Boardwalk at the time said that the fire appeared to gain speed when it reached segments of the Boardwalk where the sand had shifted after the hurricane and left pockets of air beneath the planks. Al Della Fave,

Thousands of tourists stranded in Acapulco, Mexico

**MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press
ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)**

— The death toll rose to 47 Tuesday from the unusual one-two punch of a tropical storm and a hurricane hitting Mexico at nearly the same time. Authorities scrambled to get help into, and stranded tourists out of, the cutoff resort city of Acapulco.

With roads blocked by landslides, rockslides, floods and collapsed bridges, Acapulco was cut off from road transport after Tropical Storm Manuel made landfall on Sunday. The terminal at the city's international airport was flooded, but not the landing strips.

Emergency flights began arriving in Acapulco to evacuate at least 40,000 mainly Mexican tourists stranded in the resort city where some streets were

transformed into raging brown rivers. .

Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong told the Radio Formula that 27 people had died because

of the storm in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero, where Acapulco is located. Osorio Chong said 20 more people died nationwide, many as a result of former hurricane Ingrid, which struck the Gulf coast on Monday. Mexican meteorologists said it was the first time since 1958 that two tropical storms or hurricanes had hit both the country's coasts within 24 hours.

While most Acapulco hotels seemed to be operating normally on Tuesday, many outlying neighborhoods were without water or electricity, and floodwaters were knee-deep at the city airport's check-in counters. □



Hundreds of stranded tourists gather around a Mexican Air Force jet as they wait to be evacuated, at the air base in Pie de la Cuesta, near Acapulco, Mexico, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

Naval Yard gunman exhibited signs of mental illness

Continued from front

"This is clearly a matter the president believes - and has believed - merits review," Carney said.

On Tuesday, the authorities said it had taken only two minutes for officers armed with AR-15s to arrive at the Navy Yard once they received the first of many 911 emergency calls, but that some officers had mistakenly gone to other buildings inside the property because callers had given various locations for the gunman.

Chief Cathy Lanier of the Washington D.C. police said that law enforcement officers from various agencies exchanged fire with

Alexis. She said the shooting lasted more than 30 minutes.

The authorities said that while they originally believed that Alexis had been armed with an AR-15, they now believed he entered the Navy Yard with only a shotgun and may have obtained a pistol once inside. The shotgun had been bought legally in Virginia, said Valerie Parlave, assistant director of the FBI's Washington office.

Navy officials said that although he had exhibited a "pattern of misbehavior," which included insubordination and unauthorized absences, Alexis was given an honorable discharge from the military in January 2011 after he had applied for an early discharge un-



This undated photo shows Aaron Alexis. Officials say Alexis, an information technology employee with a defense contractor, used a valid pass to get into the Washington Navy Yard building where he opened fire Monday, Sept. 16, 2013, killing 12 people. (AP Photo/Courtesy of K. Suthamtewakul)

fore firing a shot into the air. Alexis described the incident to detectives as an anger-fueled "blackout," according to the report.

Alexis had also been arrested in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2010 for discharging a firearm after an upstairs neighbor said he had confronted her in the parking lot about making too much noise, according to a Fort Worth police report. In 2008, he had been arrested outside Atlanta for disorderly conduct related to a dispute inside a nightclub, according to a police report from DeKalb County. No weapon was involved in that incident, according to the police.

The mass shooting Monday led the authorities to lock down part of the nation's capital shortly after the chaos at the Washington Navy Yard began around 8 a.m.

Pentagon officials confirmed that the Defense Department Inspector General's office had been conducting an audit of access procedures and safety at the Navy Yard. The audit, first reported by Time magazine, is due to be released in the next several weeks.

Senior Pentagon officials said Tuesday that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel intended to order a review of physical security and access at all Defense Department installations around the world.

At the same time, the Navy secretary, Ray Mabus, ordered a review of security at all Navy and Marine Corps installations, and the procedures by which personnel and visitors gain access.

The names of the 12 victims have been released: Michael Arnold, 59; Martin Bodrog, 54; Arthur Daniels, 51; Sylvia Frasier, 53; Kathy Gaarde, 62; John Roger Johnson, 73; Mary Francis Knight, 51; Frank Kohler, 50; Kenneth Bernard Proctor, 46; Vishnu Pandit, 61; Gerald L. Read, 58; and Richard Michael Ridgell, 52.

All of the victims were believed to be civilians or contractors. □

der the Navy's early enlisted transition program.

Those issues had led the Navy to consider forcing Alexis out of the service with a less than honorable discharge, a law enforcement official said Tuesday. Investigators searching for a motive for the rampage that shut down a portion of Washington on Monday said people had begun noticing Alexis' potential mental health problems around the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Alexis' father has told the authorities that his son had been among the first responders at the World Trade Center and that he believed that Alexis suffered from post-traumatic stress and had difficulty controlling his anger.

It was not known whether he was involved in any rescue effort. But he was a part-time clerical worker nearby at the Borough of Manhattan Community College from February 2001 until February 2003, according to college records.

Alexis had been arrested at least three times during the past decade by civilian authorities, twice for weapons violations.

According to the report, Alexis had been arrested for shooting the rear tires of another man's vehicle with a .45-caliber pistol be-

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Report: DHS must better track excessive force

C. SHERMAN

Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — A widely anticipated federal report released Tuesday on excessive force among U.S. border agents contained little discussion of use-of-force policies, but recommended improvements to training and the tracking of such allegations.

The report's biggest revelation may have been that the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General could not come up with a tally of excessive force allegations against Border Patrol agents and customs officers because the agency's databases do not allow them to be categorized that way.

The report was requested last year by 16 members of Congress concerned with the case of 42-year-old Anastasio Hernandez, who died after being shocked several times with a stun gun at San Diego's San Ysidro border crossing in May 2010. The letter lawmakers sent requesting the review said, "we are also concerned that this incident is simply part of a larger cultural problem at the Department."

The Justice Department's investigation into his death—one of at least 19 deaths since 2010 that the American Civil Liberties Union attributes to U.S. Customs and Border Protection—continues.

Two of the lawmakers who requested the review, U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona and Sen. Robert

Menendez of New Jersey, said Tuesday the report did not go far enough.

Grijalva called the incomplete records of allegations "deeply disturbing" and said he planned to pursue redacted portions. "We expected much more content. We expected a deeper look into it," he said.

The ACLU similarly called the report a good first step, but said more was expected. CBP also has faced fierce criticism for policies that allow agents to respond to rock throwers with deadly force, a response CBP says is justified by the danger. Eight people have been killed by Border Patrol agents in rock throwing incidents since 2010, according to the ACLU. And the report found that of 185 rock assaults in fiscal 2012, agents responded with firearms 12 percent of the time.

Shawn Moran, vice president of the National Border Patrol Council, a union representing agents, said they are satisfied with the agency's use-of-force training. "We feel that the training is top notch for use of force and our agents use it reluctantly," Moran said.

CBP began its own internal review of deadly force incidents in November, in addition to an independent review contracted to the Police Executive Research Forum. Specific references to the findings of both were redacted from Tuesday's report, which said recommendations were under consideration by the acting CBP commissioner.



A group of new Border Patrol agents run with their instructor at the Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, N.M. A Sept. 17, 2013 report says a surge in Border Patrol agents hasn't impaired their use-of-force training but that the Department of Homeland Security needs to better track excessive force allegations.

(AP Photo/Matt York)

The inspectors did credit the agency for beginning field audits last year to evaluate use-of-force training

outside of the academy. But the report said follow-up needs to be formalized and the staff expanded. □

Fire at Logan Airport fuel pumps quickly contained

BOSTON (AP) — A fire near fuel pumps at Boston Logan International Airport has sent thick, black smoke into the air but has been quickly contained and has caused no injuries.

Airport operator Massport says the fire broke out near Logan's BOS fuel farm on Tuesday evening and firefighters had it under control about a half-hour later.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Massport says it temporarily suspended use of the airport's underground fuel system as a precaution.

Logan is New England's largest transportation center, with 12,000 employees and tens of millions of passengers each year. □

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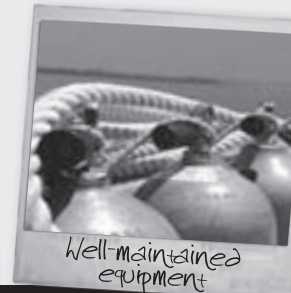
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Slower holiday sales growth predicted for 2013

MAE ANDERSON
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coming off of a weak back-to-school shopping period, a research firm expects U.S. holiday sales growth will be slower this year during the crucial holiday season. Shoppers are also expected to visit fewer stores as they research purchases online.

Retail revenue in November and December should rise 2.4 percent during the biggest shopping period of the year, Chicago-based research firm ShopperTrak said Tuesday. That compares with a 3 percent increase in 2012 from 2011. "Although the economy continues to recover slowly, consumers remain cau-

tious about spending and are not ready to splurge," said ShopperTrak founder Bill Martin.

While the job picture has been improving in the U.S. and the turnaround in the housing market is gaining traction, the improvements have not been enough to sustain higher levels of spending for most Americans. Most continue to juggle tepid wage gains with a higher cost of living.

In August, revenue at stores opened at least a year — a measure of a retailer's health— rose 3.6 percent, according to a tally of 10 retailers by the International Council of Shopping Centers. That's up a tad from July's 3.5 percent gain, but below the 6 percent gain in



A retail store at the CambridgeSide Galleria mall in Cambridge, Mass., advertises holiday sales. Coming off of a weak back-to-school shopping period, a research firm said Thursday, Sept. 17, 2013, that holiday sales growth will be slower this year during the crucial holiday season. Shoppers are also expected to visit fewer stores as they research purchases online.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

August last year. The cautious spending last month capped a weak back-to-school selling season for re-

tailers and raised questions about whether Americans would spend in November and December, a time re-

tailers can make up to 40 percent of their revenue for the year.

ShopperTrak expects traffic will fall 1.4 percent during November and December, compared with a 2.5 percent increase in 2012. That's partly due to people researching purchases more diligently before they go out shopping, Martin says.

"They're still purchasing the same amount and product they intended to, they're just not roaming from store to store looking for it," he said. In addition, there's a shorter shopping window between Black Friday — the day after Thanksgiving, which is usually the biggest shopping day of the year — and Christmas. □

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U.S. extends protections to home care workers

STEVEN GREENHOUSE
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The Obama administration announced Tuesday that it was extending minimum wage and overtime protections to the nation's nearly 2 million home care workers. Advocates for low-wage workers have pushed for this change, asserting that home care workers, who care for elderly and disabled Americans, were wrongly classified into the same "companionship services" category as baby sitters - a group that is exempt from minimum wage and overtime coverage. Under the new rule, home care aides, unlike baby sitters, would be protected under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the nation's main wage and hour law. In an unusual move, the administration said the new regulation would not take effect until Jan. 1, 2015, even though regulations often take effect 60 days af-

ter being issued. The delay until 2015 is to give families that use these attendants, as well as state Medicaid programs, time to prepare for the new rule.

Industry experts say most of these workers are already paid at least the minimum wage, but many do not receive a time-and-a-half overtime premium when they work more than 40 hours a week. About 20 states exclude home care workers from their wage and hour laws.

"We think the workers providing this critical work should be receiving the same basic protection and coverage as the vast majority of American workers," said Laura Fortman, deputy administrator of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division. "We've seen a lot of turnover in this industry, and we believe that this new rule will stabilize the workforce."

The nation's home care

workers usually earn \$8.50-\$12 an hour, according to industry officials. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. The administration announced the change 21 months after first proposing the rule and after having received 26,000 public comments, many of them from for-profit home care agencies that opposed it. Many labor advocates criticized the administration for taking so long to issue its final rule, but Labor Department officials said reviewing the comments and holding related public meetings took time.

When the initial proposal was issued in December 2011, business groups and congressional Republicans warned that it would reduce hours for home care aides, increase Medicaid and Medicare expenditures and raise costs for families that use home care services, causing fewer families to use them. □

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US Financial Front:

American poverty rate stuck at 15%; record 46.5 million

HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's poverty rate remained stuck at 15 percent last year despite America's slowly reviving economy, a discouraging lack of improvement for the record 46.5 million poor and an unwelcome benchmark for President Barack Obama's recovery plans.

More than 1 in 7 Americans were living in poverty, not statistically different from the 46.2 million of 2011 and the sixth straight year the rate had failed to improve, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday. Median income for the nation's households was \$51,017, also unchanged from the previous year after two consecutive annual declines, while the share of people without health insurance did improve but only a bit, from 15.7 percent to 15.4 percent.

"We're in the doldrums, with high poverty and inequality as the new normal for the foreseeable future," said Timothy Smeeding, an economics professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who specializes in income inequality. "The fact we've seen no real recovery in employment and wages means we've just flatlined."

The last significant decline in the national poverty rate came in 2006, during the Bush administration and before the housing bubble burst and the recession hit. In 2011, the rate dipped to 15 percent from 15.1 percent, but census officials said that change was statistically insignificant.

For the past year, the official poverty line was an an-

nual income of \$23,492 for a family of four.

The Census Bureau's annual report offers a snapshot of the economic well-being of U.S. households for 2012, when the unemployment rate averaged 8.1 percent after reaching an average

high of 9.6 percent in 2010. Typically, the poverty rate tends to move in a similar direction as the unemployment rate, so many analysts had been expecting a modest decline in poverty. The latest census data show that the gap be-

tween rich and poor was largely unchanged over the past year, having widened since 2007 to historic highs.

On Monday, Obama called attention to what he described as economic improvements — the nation's

gross domestic product did rise by 2.8 percent last year — and said congressional Republicans would reverse recent gains if they took uncompromising stands in connection with looming budget deadlines.

Some Republican conservatives have been demanding a delay of Obama's new health care law as the price for supporting continued federal government spending.

The House is also expected to consider a bill this week that would cut food stamps for the poor by an estimated \$4 billion annually — 10 times the size of cuts passed by the Democratic Senate — and allow states to put broad new work requirements in place for recipients.

"This lack of improvement in poverty is disappointing and discouraging," said John Iceland, a former Census Bureau chief of the poverty and health statistics branch who is now a Penn State sociology professor.



A group of boys walk past a partially collapsed row house in Baltimore. The nation's poverty rate stood still at 15% in 2012, the sixth straight year that it has failed to improve. The Census Bureau reported Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013, that 46.5 million Americans were living in poverty in 2012.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

US builder confidence steady, rates a concern

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

U.S. homebuilders' confidence in the housing market held this month at its highest level in nearly eight years. But builders are starting to worry that sales may slow if mortgage rates continue to rise.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Tuesday registered at 58 this month. That's unchanged from August, which was revised down from an initial reading of 59. Readings above 50 indi-

cate more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor.

In the latest survey, which included 264 respondents, a measure of current sales conditions was unchanged, while a gauge of traffic by prospective buyers rose one point. But builders' outlook for single-family home sales over the next six months fell three points.

"While builder confidence is holding at the highest level in nearly eight years, many are reporting some hesitancy on the part of

buyers due to the sharp increase in interest rates," said Rick Judson, the NAHB's chairman. Mortgage rates have risen more than a full percentage point since May, when Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke first indicated the Fed could slow its \$85 billion a month in bond buying this year. The Fed is meeting this week and many economists expect it will begin to reduce its bond buying by about \$10 billion, according to a survey by The Associated Press. The bond purchases are intended to

lower longer-term interest rates and encourage more borrowing and spending.

Builder confidence has been climbing steadily since the fall of 2011, gaining momentum in concert with the housing recovery. A year ago, the index was at 40. The last time the reading was above 58 was in November 2005, when it was 61. U.S. sales of new homes peaked in July that year.

Despite the rise in mortgage rates, financing a home remains low by historical standards.



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Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness speaks to the media following talks with U.S. diplomat Richard Haass at an hotel in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013. It followed inter-party talks designed to resolve issues over parades, flags and Northern Ireland's past.
 (AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

US official opens new Belfast peace talks

S. POGATCHNIK
 Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — A U.S. diplomat launched a new round of Northern Ireland peace talks Tuesday aimed at defusing annual confrontations over parades and flags that trigger regular bouts of rioting. Richard Haass told a Belfast press conference he would spend the coming four months meeting rival British Protestant and Irish Catholic parties, churches, parading organizations and militant pressure groups in hopes of finding

compromise on issues that have defied resolution for decades. Haass, a former senior State Department official who today directs the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, was invited by leaders of Northern Ireland's unity government to oversee the Belfast talks. Leaders on both sides said he had demonstrated impartiality while serving as President George W. Bush's envoy to Northern Ireland from 2001 to 2003. Haass told a Belfast press conference he hoped to publish plans by December that identify grounds for compromise on three sectarian disputes: the right to parade, the public display of British and Irish flags and symbols, and the best way to remember the 3,700 dead from Northern Ireland's four-decade conflict. Northern Ireland has enjoyed growing peace and prosperity since the U.S.-brokered Good Friday peace accord of 1998, but that landmark pact didn't even attempt to resolve the issues Haass is tackling. "There's obviously unresolved tensions, or you wouldn't have had the violence you had this summer and you wouldn't have had these lingering and persistent political differences," Haass told reporters before meeting Catholic politicians. Both sides' leaders agree they need help identifying solutions able to ease tensions in a year that has already featured two protracted periods of rioting. Nobody has been killed, but more than 100 police officers have been injured in clashes chiefly with militants from the province's Protestant majority. □

Egypt Muslim Brotherhood spokesman arrested

SARAH EL DEEB
 Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian police arrested the main English-language spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood on Tuesday along with other senior members of the group, all charged with inciting violence, state media and a security official said. Gehad el-Haddad had emerged as one of the

group's most well-known faces, appearing regularly in foreign media to defend the Brotherhood's policies during Mohammed Morsi's year as president and following Morsi's July 3 ouster by the military. His father, Essam el-Haddad, was a senior foreign policy aide to Morsi and has been in detention with Morsi since the coup.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki criticized the arrest as politically motivated, saying "we are opposed to all politicized arrests, of course including this one, and detention, and remain focused on encouraging the interim government to move forward on an inclusive process that brings representatives from all sides."

Several thousand Brotherhood members and other Islamist backers of Morsi have been arrested in the past month, with more than 2,000 being held pending prosecution.

The crackdown has detained most of the Brotherhood's senior leaders, as well as key midlevel operators who are in charge of organizing and financing the group's activities. El-Haddad was arrested in a police raid on two apartments in the Cairo district of Nasr City that also detained five other senior Brotherhood figures.

Among them were the Morsi-era governor of Qalioubiya province, a former lawmaker, and a member of the Guidance Bureau, the top executive body of the Brotherhood made up of dozens of members, many of whom are already in custody, according to state media and the security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press. □



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Russia opposes use of force in resolution on Syria

Continued from front

But if signs emerge that Syria is not fulfilling the agreement or there are reports of further chemical weapons use, "then the Security Council will examine the situation," Lavrov said, suggesting the issue could be reconsidered.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said a resolution on the U.S.-Russia deal must be enforceable, telling reporters that the "most effective" way is under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter. That deals with threats to international peace and security and has provisions for enforcement by military or non-military means, such as sanctions.

While in principle all Security Council resolutions are legally binding, Ban said, "in reality, we need clear guidelines under Chapter 7." Lavrov made his remarks at a news conference in Moscow with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. France and the U.S. say a military option remained on the table, and they are pushing for the U.N. resolution to reflect that.

Diplomats said the five permanent council members — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France — made little progress at a meeting Tuesday on a draft resolution and would meet again Wednesday. On Monday, U.N. inspectors submitted a report

on the Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack near Damascus that deepened the Syrian crisis. It was the first official confirmation by impartial experts that chemical weapons were used in the attack, which killed hundreds.

The report confirmed that chemical weapons were used but did not ascribe blame, and Lavrov and Fabius differed sharply on their interpretations.

"The report exposes the regime," Fabius said. "On the basis of the information of our external agents, we consider that the report proves the responsibility of the regime for the chemical weapons attack of Aug. 21." The U.S., Britain and France said evidence in the report — the type of rockets, the composition of the sarin agent, and trajectory of the missiles — showed that Assad's government was responsible. The report said surface-to-surface rockets containing sarin were fired from an area where Syria's military has bases, but said the evidence could have been manipulated in the rebel-controlled neighborhood that was hit.

Russia, a staunch ally of the Syrian regime, disagreed with the West's conclusions. Lavrov said Moscow has "serious reason to suggest that this was a provocation" by the rebels.

Ban called the report "the



British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant and U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power confer in the United Nations Security Council, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013. Moscow insisted on Tuesday that a new Security Council resolution on Syria not allow the use of force, while the Arab country's main opposition group demanded a swift international response following the U.N. report that confirmed chemical weapons were used outside Damascus last month.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

most significant confirmed use of chemical weapons against civilians since Saddam Hussein used them" against ethnic Kurds in Halabja, Iraq, in 1988. □



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Strauss-Kahn to work 3 months for free in Serbia

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) —

Former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who faces aggravated pimping charges in France, said Tuesday he won't be paid for his first three months as an economic adviser to Serbia's government.

"We will work for three months pro bono, and then we'll see what will happen," Strauss-Kahn told a press conference in Belgrade following his arrival and after talks with officials.

He did not comment on the charges he faces back home but Serbia's deputy prime minister Aleksandar Vucic dismissed the possibility that Strauss-Kahn's "reputation" could be damaging for the country.

"No doubt Dominique Strauss-Kahn is an acknowledged expert for economy," said Vucic. "I have never heard anyone question his expertise, which is very important for our side."



Former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, left, shakes hands with Serbia's deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic after a press conference, in Belgrade, Serbia, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013. Strauss-Kahn, whose career has suffered from a series of sex scandals, is reinventing himself, this time as an economic adviser to the Serbian government.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

"We appointed him and his team here because of our needs, we need to move

forward our economy," he added.

Vucic has faced criticism

from the opposition and some experts for picking Strauss-Kahn and his team

to help deal with Serbia's foreign debt and other economic problems.

"I am not saying that my team and I can provide some kind of a magic stick, but I believe that we can help the government make the right decisions," Strauss-Kahn said.

Vucic said part of the advisory team will be based in Serbia, while the rest will stay in France.

The French case revolves around an alleged hotel prostitution ring and hinges on whether Strauss-Kahn knew he was partying with prostitutes and whose money was used to pay them. His lawyers have said Strauss-Kahn had attended "libertine" gatherings but did not know that some women there were paid.

No trial date has been set for Strauss-Kahn and several others in France, a country where it is not illegal to pay for sex, but it is against the law to solicit or to run a prostitution business.

The case put Strauss-Kahn, 64, back in the spotlight after his arrest in New York in May 2011, based on allegations by a Manhattan hotel maid that he had sexually assaulted her. He resigned as IMF chief before those charges were dropped.

Serbia is one of the six former Yugoslav republics which fought each other in a bloody ethnic war after the former federation broke up in 1990s'.

The conflict and the international sanctions imposed on the country for its warmongering have destroyed the economy, while postwar recovery has been hampered by the global financial downturn and lack of substantial reform. □

German economic confidence up more than expected

DAVID MCHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— A German index of economic optimism among investment professionals rose more than expected in September, underlining stronger growth prospects for Europe's largest economy and for the euro currency union as a whole.

The ZEW rose to 49.6 points from 42.0 in August. That beat analysts' expectations for an increase to 45.0 and keeps the index well above its long-term average of 23.8.

The index's reading for the 17-country euro currency union rose even more strongly, to 58.6 from 44.0 in

August, reflecting the end of an 18-month recession.

The head of the ZEW think tank, Clemens Fuest, said Tuesday that "the financial market experts hold the view that the German economy is still gaining momentum."

"The experts' economic optimism has increased due to the improved economic outlook for the eurozone — although recently released economic data for Germany have fallen short of expectations," Fuest said.

The eurozone is a key export market for Germany. A crisis over high levels of government debt in some countries in the currency

bloc has eased in the past year as market fears of a government default have ebbed. The eurozone returned to modest growth of 0.3 percent in the second quarter, while Germany had a more robust expansion at 0.7 percent.

The ZEW is what economists call a leading indicator, meaning it points to where the economy may be going in the coming months. Economist Christian Schulz at Berenberg Bank in London said that the ZEW's track record shows it is a reliable guide to whether economic activity has reached a turning point, though not as good at predicting how strong the re-

covery or downturn will be. For the eurozone, evidence that it is turning a corner will help ease concerns about its debt problems.

Growth helps shrink debt levels by improving government tax revenues and reducing the debt pile relative to the size of the economy.

"With the economy back to growth, chances that the eurozone can overcome potential setbacks improve, too," Schulz said. Mannheim-based ZEW, or Centre for European Economic Research, compiled the index based on a survey of 260 investment analysts at financial institutions in the period Sept. 2-16. □

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Philippine police officer freed, rebels surrender

BULLIT MARQUEZ
Associated Press
ZAMBOANGA, Philippines
(AP) — A Philippine police chief who was reported abducted Tuesday by Muslim rebels has emerged free

news conference that Senior Superintendent Jose Chiquito Malayo and three of his men were taken at gunpoint while trying to persuade some Moro National Liberation Front reb-

Roxas told reporters. The rebels said they had come from a nearby island to join a peaceful protest by their group in Zamboanga but withdrew after firefights erupted between

tary spokesman Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala said.

The surrender of about 20 rebels comes as government troops intensify an offensive to end the standoff that began Sept. 9 when the troops foiled a suspected plan by a larger group of rebels to take control of Zamboanga, a major port of nearly 1 million people about 860 kilometers (540 miles) south of Manila.

The military says it has recaptured 70 percent of the coastal areas occupied by the rebels and rescued more than 100 hostages.

About 64 hostages were freed or escaped during military operations early Tuesday, followed by another 14 who walked to freedom in separate batches. That brought to 116 the number of those rescued in the last 18 hours, Zagala said.

He said more than 100 Moro National Liberation Front rebels were still holding hostages in the remaining pockets they control in five coastal villages in Zamboanga.

Nearly 82,000 residents have fled the fighting into several emergency shelters, including the city's main sports complex.

President Benigno Aquino III has been in Zamboanga since Friday to oversee the handling of the worst security crisis his administration has faced since he came to power in 2010.

The Moro insurgents, led by Nur Misuari, signed a peace deal in 1996, but the guerrillas did not lay down their arms and later accused the government of reneging on a promise to develop long-neglected Muslim regions in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The rebels have become increasingly restive in recent months as they've been overshadowed by a rival rebel group that engaged Aquino's government in peace talks brokered by Malaysia. Thiae talks have steadily progressed toward a new and potentially larger autonomy deal for minority Muslims in the south. □



Two men who claim to be hostages are escorted to a waiting vehicle after being released from the hands of Muslim rebels in Zamboanga city in southern Philippines Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013.
(AP Photo)

hours later after convincing his captors to surrender in a twist to a nine-day hostage standoff in the south of the country, officials said. Interior Secretary Mar Roxas and police officials told a

els to surrender in fighting near Zamboanga city. "While trying to convince them, he was taken into custody or held hostage but he kept on convincing them until he succeeded,"

government troops and their comrades, Roxas said, adding police would investigate their claims. "The important thing here is he (Malayo) was able to enact the surrender," mili-

Volcano erupts again in Indonesia

BINSAR BAKKARA
Associated Press
MEDAN, Indonesia (AP) — A volcano in western Indonesia erupted for the second time this week on Tuesday, forcing some villagers who were just returning home to flee the mountain again, an official said. Local Disaster Mitigation Agency chief Asren Nasution said Mount Sinabung's midday eruption spewed volcanic ash and thick smoke up to 3 kilometers (nearly two miles) into the air and blew eastward to the hilly resort town of Brast-

agi. He added that there are no immediate reports of damages or injuries. Tuesday's eruption also caused forest fires to ignite on the slopes of the volcano, and black smoke could be seen billowing from two villages, according to an Associated Press photographer on the scene. The 2,600-meter (8,530-foot) volcano in North Sumatra province first erupted Sunday after being dormant for three years. It spewed thick ash and small rocks that pelted neighbor-

ing villages. Local military chief Lt. Col. Meyer Putong said about 7,500 people had been evacuated as of Tuesday afternoon. They were being sheltered in 12 locations. Most of them were from six villages within 3 kilometers (nearly 2 miles) of the mountain in Karo district. The volcano's last eruption in August 2010 killed two people and forced 30,000 others to flee. It caught many scientists off guard because the volcano had remained quiet for four centuries. □



Residents watch from their house as Mount Sinabung erupts in Karo, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013.
(AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara)



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China:

World's highest civilian airport opens

BEIJING (AP) — China has begun flight operations at the world's highest civilian airport in a bid to boost tourism and tighten political control over the country's restive west.

At an elevation of 4,411 meters (14,472 feet) above sea level, Daocheng Yading Airport replaces the previous champion, Bangda Airport in the Tibet Autonomous Region, which sits at 4,334 meters (14,219 feet).

Aircraft engines produce less thrust at such elevations because of the much thinner air, calling for longer runways.

The one at Daocheng Yading is 4,200 meters (13,780 feet) long, just 242 meters (794 feet) shorter than the longest runway at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Passengers are also warned of light-headedness and other symptoms of altitude sickness on arrival. State media Tuesday said flights from the new airport that began Monday will slash travel time from scenic Daocheng Yading to Sichuan's provincial capital of Chengdu from two days by bus to just 65 minutes.

Other routes are to begin by the end of the month, the reports said. The region is a gateway to Tibet, one that Beijing has sought to promote for tourism as way of tamping down dissent among the native Tibetan population and stabilizing the area through economic development.

Beijing has peppered the region with airports that see little business and spent \$3.68 billion building the world's highest rail line over permafrost to Tibet's capital, Lhasa. □

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A Tibetan woman uses her cellphone to take photos of a flight that touched down at Yading airport, the world's highest-altitude civilian airport at 4,411 meters (14,471 feet) above the sea level, in Daocheng of Garzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, known as "the last Shangri-La", in south-west China's Sichuan province Monday Sept. 16, 2013.

(AP Photo)

Puerto Rico holds hearings on pot bill

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Legislators in Puerto Rico are holding public hearings on a bill that would legalize marijuana for personal use. Doctors, community leaders and residents spoke Tuesday about a measure that would make it legal to possess up to one ounce of

marijuana for those 21 and older. The measure was submitted earlier this year by Sen. Miguel Pereira, a former federal prosecutor and corrections secretary who has said that possession cases are costly and noted that 80 percent of inmates are serving time for

non-violent crimes.

Another recently submitted bill would allow people to use marijuana for medicinal purposes and create a system to legally produce the substance that health officials would regulate. That bill has not yet been debated. □

EU auto sales hit new low

DAVID MCHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Car sales in Europe are still sagging despite the return of modest economic growth.

For the first eight months of the year, passenger car sales in the European Union were off 5.2 percent to 7.84 million compared with the same period last year, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association said Tuesday. That's the lowest January-August figure since the group started keeping track in 1990.

New car registrations in August fell 5 percent from a year ago to 653,872, the association said.

The economy in the 28-country EU grew 0.4 percent in the second quarter, ending a recession. But the unemployment rate remains high at 11.0 percent, making many consumers unable or afraid to buy a new car. Governments hit by the eurozone debt crisis have cut back on spending and raised taxes to try to manage oversized debt levels, slowing their economies. The hardest hit countries, such as Greece and Spain, face even higher jobless rates that have hurt sales of moderately priced vehicles especially hard. Luxury carmakers are doing better.

The August downturn was distributed across Europe's biggest markets. Germany saw a 5.5 percent drop, despite a stronger economy than in other members of the 17-county eurozone. Registrations fell 10.5 percent in France, 18.3 percent in Spain, and 6.6 percent in Italy.

Britain's was the only major market to expand, rising 10.5 percent.

Analyst Carlos Da Silva at IHS Automotive said the figures suggested the market was bottoming out

because the decline had slowed from 9.7 percent in the first three months of the year.

"Decline is still on the menu but the rate of descent has nearly been halved," he said.

Global auto executives remain cautious, however. They said in interviews at the Frankfurt Auto Show last week that while the European market may have reached the bottom, they do not see any significant increase in demand this year. The European market contrasts with a rebound in the United States, where figures show sales are on track to reach 16 million vehicles a year — the level from before the recession. European annual sales were 15.6 million in 2007 — but are heading for just under 12 million for all of this year. Among the major carmakers, Germany's Volkswagen Group was off 11.2 percent in August while France's PSA Peugeot Citroen slid 17.3 percent. Renault Group rose 6.0 percent and General Motors was up 0.5 percent — as a large jump in sales of Chevrolet-branded vehicles made up for a 3.4 percent fall in sales of its main European Opel and Vauxhall brands. Ford was off 1.5 percent.

Luxury brands did better. Daimler's Mercedes was up 8.9 percent, excluding its compact Smart city car, and BMW AG rose 9.5 percent, excluding its Mini brand. However, VW's Audi luxury brand, a chief competitor for Mercedes and BMW, was off 5.6 percent.

The biggest market share over the first eight months remained with Volkswagen Group, including the company's other brands such as Audi, Seat and Skoda, with 24.9 percent, up slightly from 24.8 percent. □



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PARADERA - Club Kibrahacha celebrated their 28th Anniversary recently with a very special celebration. Most of their members from the areas Noord, Sta. Cruz, San Nicolas and Oranjestad came together with the staff and volunteers to celebrate this special event.

The morning started off with the traditional blessing by Mrs. Juliana Henricus followed by words of Mr. Ephrain de Lannoy, representing the organization and Mrs. Diana Uchtmann, the Director of the club.

Everybody enjoyed the music played by "Tommi y su Grupo" and as always it did not take long for the dance floor to fill up. A demonstration of the Dance Fit group was given led by Mr. Metlon Arrindel and many members like Dr A. Schwengel joined in.

Club Kibrahacha 60+ is a social club especially for people over 60 living on the island of Aruba. Every day different activities are being organized like: Dance fit, Chi and Cha, Energy training, Yoga Smuvey and a lot more.

They also have an internet cafe with wifi where you can take computer class-



Connecting Venezuela and Brazil in Aruba:

Andrea And Rafael Say "I Do" At The Aruba Marriott



PALM BEACH - Recently Andrea Ruza and Rafael Teixeira said "I do" at the Aruba Marriot Resort & Stellaris Casino. The couple was surprised with a sand ceremony to bless their marriage at the beach accompanied by their family and friends from Venezuela and Brazil. The following day the church ceremony took place in Tanki Leendert fol-



**Beauty
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*Virginia
Rasmijn*

She is married to a local and is staying at her family in law. This is her third visit and planning to stay in Aruba for a very long time but now she is enjoying a very romantic vacation with her husband.

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lowed by a party at Marriott's brand new Grand Ballroom. They danced for the first time as Mr. & Mrs. Teixeira on "Everything" from Michael Bubble. The spectacular décor of the wedding reception was done by Vicente Izarrawho flew in from Maracaibo, Venezuela. The main attraction was the band from Caracas, Vitamina, one of Venezuela's most popular bands. With the bride's Venezuelan background, the couple celebrated the "la horaloca", a Venezuelan tradition. It is a designated "Crazy Hour" where the bride & groom hand out wigs and noisemakers to get the crowd going. The brass band started the

"la horaloca" in the Grand Ballroom and fun hats and masks, themed the colors of Venezuela and Brazil, were given to family and friends, while dancing to the carnival tunes.

"This was one of the most memorable weddings I have experienced so far at the Aruba Marriott," said Director of Events Ilaina Franco Franca. "The decoration was beautiful and colorful and combining the traditional "la horaloca" made the complete event stand out."

The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino wishes Andrea and Rafael the best of luck as they enter a new chapter of their lives together as one. □

LAN is the leading Latin American airline:

Aruba Airport Authority welcomes LAN with two weekly flights



ORANJESTAD - After a few years of maintaining contacts and developing a relationship with LAN, which has its headquarters in Chile, we have been able to attract the airline to carry out two weekly flights to and from Bogota for Aruba," Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) CEO Mr. Peter Steinmetz said during the press conference

announcing this fabulous news. Aruba has been working on this relationship since 2007, but it was in 2012 that a delegation, after five years, traveled to Chile again to present the benefits of doing business with Aruba in a market which is showing continuous growth. It is with great pride that AAA, Aruba Tourism Au-

thority (ATA) and the Government of Aruba as partners have realized this first step, announcing these flights in a collaboration that undoubtedly will result mutually beneficial. LAN is the leading airline in Latin America, with more than 40% of the market and subsidiaries in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as the companies

LAN Express and LAN Cargo. The potential to expand and grow Aruba's tourism is great. LAN, which was established in 1929, is a member of One world Alliance and flies to 150 destinations in 23 countries. With the LAN and TAM merger in 2010, LAN became the largest Latin American airline holding. In 2012, 14.5

million clients made use of LAN's frequent flyer program and the airline transported more than 64 million passengers last year only. Always on the lookout for interesting and attractive destinations that can become partners with future growth to diversify its business, LAN identified an opportunity in beginning the Bogota – Aruba – Bogota route on Wednesdays and Sundays. AAA sees in these significant opportunities for growth of our tourism by means of the contacts and hubs that LAN offers within Latin America. With Central and South America as one of the markets showing the most growth for Aruba's tourism, the arrival of LAN to our island translates into numerous benefits in regards to passenger arrivals, as well as transportation of cargo. □

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Rookie Bernard leads Bengals over Steelers 20-10

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Running back Giovani Bernard scored his first two NFL touchdowns, one of them off a short pass that he turned into a 27-yard score, as the Cincinnati Bengals beat Pittsburgh 20-10 on Monday to extend the Steelers' early misery. NFL RoundupThe second-round draft pick had a 7-yard touchdown run in the first half before turning a short pass from Andy Dalton into a third-quarter score — a preview of what the Bengals (1-1) could become with a pass-catching threat out of the backfield. First-round pick Tyler Eifert also had a big play, making a 61-yard catch that set up Bernard's touchdown run.

The Bengals piled up 407 yards on one of the NFL's toughest defenses, holding the ball for more than 35 minutes.

Pittsburgh fell to 0-2 for the first time since 2002, done in by another game of self-destruction on offense. The Steelers had two turnovers in scoring range and couldn't hold the ball long enough to give their defense a breather, failing to get a first down on seven of their 12 possessions.

It was a chance for the Bengals to show they've supplanted the Steelers in the AFC North. They beat



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Felix Jones (23) is tackled by Cincinnati Bengals' Wallace Gilberry (73) in the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 16, 2013, in Cincinnati. Guard Ramon Foster (73) and outside linebacker Vontaze Burfict (55) help.

Associated Press

Pittsburgh 13-10 at Heinz Field last December to reach the playoffs, and now have moved ahead of them again with a rare Monday night win.

Cincinnati is 10-20 in Monday night games.

The Bengals put the ball in the Dalton's hands in the first half, letting him pass away while they all but abandoned the run against one of the NFL's top defenses. Dalton had an up-and-down game, finishing 25 of 45 for 280 yards. He was one attempt shy of career high.

Cincinnati's rookies provided the big plays.

Eifert got open between cornerback Ike Taylor and safety Ryan Clark for his 61-yard catch. Bernard finished the long drive with a 7-yard run, his first touchdown in the NFL, for the early lead.

The Steelers needed to get their offense moving after a horrid opener. They ran for only 32 yards and Ben Roethlisberger was sacked five times during a 16-9 home loss to Tennessee. Worse, the Steelers lost Pro Bowl center Maurice Pouncey for the rest of the season with a torn knee ligament. Fernando Velasco, signed a week earlier, started in his place Monday.

Continued on Page 20

Pair of America's Cup races postponed

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Strong wind blowing in through the Golden Gate Bridge and a strong tide flowing out to sea forced organizers to postpone two America's Cup races Tuesday between Emirates Team Zealand and defender Oracle Team USA.

Team New Zealand leads 7-1 and needs two wins to claim the America's Cup for the second time in 18 years. Oracle Team USA, owned by software mogul Larry Ellison, was penalized two points in a cheating scandal so it needs eight more victories to keep the Auld Mug. Lighter wind is expected

on San Francisco Bay on Wednesday, when organizers hope to complete Races 11 and 12. The schedule is four races behind. The wind limit of 23 knots was reduced to 20.3 knots because of an ebb tide flowing out at 2.7 knots. Regatta director Iain Murray said it was the strongest current

day of the summer. The wind gusted just above 24 knots right before the races were called off. The original wind limit of 33 knots was reduced to 23 knots as one of 37 safety recommendations made after British double Olympic medalist Andrew "Bart" Simpson was killed on May 9

when Artemis Racing's catamaran capsized during a training run. On Monday, Oracle Team USA officials proposed increasing the wind limit from 23 to 24 knots, saying the crews were capable of starting races in those conditions aboard their high-performance, 72-foot catamarans. □

Juan Pablo Montoya to drive for Team Penske

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer
CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — With a chance to start over and maybe drive in any series he wanted, Juan Pablo Montoya thought long and hard about what mattered most at this stage of his career. The answer was simple: Winning.

So when a team owner synonymous with winning put an offer in front of him, Montoya snapped up the opportunity. He'll leave NASCAR behind for a return to open-wheel to drive for Roger Penske — the IndyCar Series rival of Montoya's longtime boss, Chip Ganassi.

"He's very excited for me," Montoya said on Monday after texting with Ganassi, who is in Europe. "Chip and I are very good friends. He had to make a decision this year to go in a different direction. I had to do

the same thing. I had an opportunity and a great chance with Penske. We're going to be competitors and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Ganassi decided in August not to bring Montoya back next year to his NASCAR program. It put the Colombian on the free agent market, and even though Ganassi has said he'd not ruled out using Montoya in his other programs, Montoya considered everything.

He spoke with Michael Andretti about an IndyCar ride, and Furniture Row Racing about replacing Kurt Busch at the end of the NASCAR season.

There were calls to Europe, and a new rumor about a possible test with Lotus in Formula One.

Montoya will team next season with current IndyCar points leader Helio Castroneves of Brazil and

Will Power of Australia while driving for Penske, winner of 15 Indianapolis 500s. He could also drive in some NASCAR races as part of the deal.

"My No. 1 choice was going to be in a winning car. I really wanted to be in a winning car," he said. "It came down to I wanted to race for Roger. In a way it's always been one of my dreams to be able to be part of his organization. Being here, it's unbelievable. I'm so excited. I'm like a 5-year-old kid right now."

Some could also consider the move a big piece of gamesmanship in the racing rivalry that spans two series between Ganassi and Penske.

Castroneves and Ganassi driver Scott Dixon of New Zealand are locked in a fierce battle for the title, and the competition has heated up over the last two races as Dixon has

been involved in incidents with Power and the Penske organization.

"He's a great driver and deserves a great drive," Ganassi told The Associated Press. "He will have that there at Penske Racing."

Montoya won the 1999 CART title, the 2000 Indianapolis 500 and 11 races driving open-wheel for Ganassi. He then moved to F1, where he had seven wins and 30 podiums, before reuniting with Ganassi

again in 2006 to compete in NASCAR.

But results in NASCAR have been sporadic. Montoya

has just two wins in 244 career starts and his best season finish was eighth in 2009. He's 20th in the standings this season. □



Juan Pablo Montoya listens to his crew before the NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Ill., Sunday, Sept. 15, 2013. Associated Press

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Myers homers to lift Rays over Rangers 6-2

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — Wil Myers homered and had three RBIs, and Alex Cobb pitched eight solid innings as the Tampa Bay Rays took the lead for the first AL wild-card spot by beating the skidding Texas Rangers 6-2 on Monday night. AL Capsule Tampa Bay and Texas started play a half-game ahead of Cleveland in the race for two wild-card berths.

Myers had a second-inning solo shot and hit a two-run double during a four-run fifth. Cobb (9-3) allowed two runs and six hits while striking out 10.

Matt Garza (9-6, 3-5 with Texas) gave up six runs and eight hits over 4 1-3 innings against his former team. He lost his third straight start for the Rangers, who have dropped seven in a row and are 2-12 in September. The announced crowd was just 10,724. The Rays entered with the lowest home attendance in the majors, an average of 18,747.

TIGERS 4, MARINERS 2



Tampa Bay Rays' Wil Myers flips his bat as he watches his fifth-inning two run double off Texas Rangers relief pitcher Jason Frasor during a baseball game Monday, Sept. 16, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Rays' James Loney and Evan Longoria scored on the hit.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Rick Porcello struck out 10 in six innings as Detroit beat Seattle to move a step closer to its third straight AL Central title. Victor Martinez broke a 1-all tie in the sixth with a run-scoring single, and Omar Infante followed with his own RBI single.

Porcello (13-8) allowed a run and five hits with two walks, falling one strikeout

short of his career high. Drew Smyly got five outs in relief and Jose Veras finished the eighth.

Joaquin Benoit pitched a hitless ninth for his 21st save in 21 chances.

Joe Saunders (11-15) pitched well until the sixth, when he got two outs before a walk and three hits chased him from the game. Abraham Almonte

homered for Seattle, which has lost seven of eight.

ROYALS 7, INDIANS 1

KANSAS CITY, Missouri

(AP) — James Shields kept Cleveland off balance for six innings and Salvador Perez led a scrappy Kansas City offense as the Royals won the opener of a three-game set with significant playoff implications.

Shields struck out a season-high 10 for the Royals (79-71), who moved within 2½ games of the second AL wild-card berth. The Indians (81-69) remained a half-game back of Texas.

Shields (12-9) allowed only Lonnie Chisenhall's homer before turning the game over to his stingy bullpen. Wade Davis, Luke Hochevar and Tim Collins did the rest in a steady drizzle.

Scott Kazmir (8-9) gave up four runs in five-plus innings. He didn't get a whole lot of help from his offense, which racked up a season-high 17 strikeouts.

ANGELS 12, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— C.J. Wilson pitched seven innings of four-hit ball for his career-best 17th win as Los Angeles became the first team in nearly four months to beat Oakland starter Jarrod Parker.

Kole Calhoun had two of his three RBIs during a five-run fifth inning that chased Parker (11-7), who was 9-0 in 19 starts since a loss at Texas on May 22. It was the longest unbeaten streak by an A's starting pitcher since Hall of Famer Lefty Grove went 21 in a row in 1931.

Mike Trout and Mark Trumbo each hit a two-run homer in the eighth.

Wilson (17-6) extended his career-best winning streak to nine and is unbeaten in his last 13 starts.

Oakland remained 6½

games ahead of second-place Texas in the AL West.

WHITE SOX 12, TWINS 1

CHICAGO (AP) — Erik Johnson pitched six scoreless innings to earn his first major league victory as Chicago scored seven runs in the first against Minnesota.

The White Sox, who had lost six straight and 15 of 17, broke out of their offensive funk against Liam Hendriks (1-3), who got only two outs. Chicago set a season high for runs and posted its biggest margin of victory this year.

Alexei Ramirez went 4 for 4 with a home run and three RBIs. He was a triple short of the cycle. Adam Dunn, Dayan Viciedo and Jordan Danks also homered. During their skid, the White Sox totaled seven runs. They matched that in their highest-scoring first inning since scoring eight against Detroit on April 21, 2002.

Johnson (1-2), called up from Triple-A Charlotte on Sept. 3, gave up four hits and struck out eight.

INTERLEAGUE
REDS 6, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Johnny Cueto threw five shutout

innings in his return from the disabled list and Zack Cozart homered and drove in four runs to lead Cincinnati over Houston.

Pitching for the first time since straining the muscle below his right shoulder on June 28, Cueto (5-2) allowed five hits and struck out five with one walk.

Cincinnati moved five games ahead of Washington for the second NL wild card. Cozart hit a two-run homer in the second and a two-run single in the fourth. Erik Bedard (4-11) allowed four hits and four runs in four innings in his return from a stint in the bullpen.

□

Continued from Page 18

Roethlisberger got Pittsburgh's offense moving in spurts. He completed all five of his passes on a touchdown drive that pulled the Steelers into a 10-all tie at halftime, including completions of 19 and 43 yards to Emmanuel Sanders.

Shaun Suisham kicked a 44-yard field goal, as the Steelers had a chance to add to the lead in the first half. But another mistake provided the game's first turning point.

Pinned at their 3-yard line after a punt, the Steelers drove into scoring position. Roethlisberger completed a 34-yard pass to tight



Cincinnati Bengals running back BenJarvus Green-Ellis (42) runs against Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Jarvis Jones (95) in the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 16, 2013, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

end David Paulson, who fumbled the ball as he was tackled. Adam "Pacman"

Jones forced the fumble and recovered it at the Cincinnati 13-yard line. □

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NL Capsules

Cashner perfect into 7th, 1-hits Pirates in win

The Associated Press
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Andrew Cashner carried a perfect game into the seventh inning and faced the minimum 27 batters in a one-hitter that sent San Diego Padres past the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-0 on Monday. Cashner (10-8) retired his first 18 batters before Jose Tabata grounded a clean single into right field leading off the seventh. Tabata was erased when Andrew McCutchen grounded into an inning-ending double play, and the right-hander cruised the rest of the way for his first complete game in 31 career starts.

Cashner struck out seven and did not walk a batter. The Pirates lost for the second time in eight games but remained tied for first place in the NL Central with the St. Louis Cardinals, who lost at Colorado. PHILLIES 12, MARLINS 2
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Cliff Lee had three hits, knocked in a career-high four runs and struck out a season-high 14 to lead the Phillies to a win over the Marlins.

Lee (14-6) stroked a two-run, bases-loaded single to cap off a six-run third inning and also hit his first career triple in the fifth. Chase Utley, who also drove in four runs, hit a long three-run homer in the third. On the mound, Lee allowed two runs while scattering eight hits and walking none, at one point retiring 11 straight en route to winning his fourth consecutive decision. He is 4-0 with a 2.05 ERA in his last six starts and 5-1 with a 2.29 lifetime ERA against Miami. Philadelphia has won six in a row over Miami. In his first major-league



Tampa Bay Rays' Wil Myers flips his bat as he watches his fifth-inning two run double off Texas Rangers relief pitcher Jason Frasor during a baseball game Monday, Sept. 16, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Rays' James Loney and Evan Longoria scored on the hit.

Associated Press

start, Sam Dyson (0-1) allowed seven runs.

ROCKIES 6, CARDINALS 2
DENVER (AP) — Todd Helton started his final home stand with a key single in the eighth inning as the Rockies beat the Cardinals. Charlie Blackmon had three hits and drove in three runs for the Rockies, who prevented the Cardinals from taking over sole possession of first place in the NL Central. They remained tied with the Pittsburgh Pirates, who lost 2-0 to San Diego.

Matt Carpenter and Matt Adams had two hits each for the Cardinals.

Helton was playing in front of Colorado fans for the first time since he announced his plans to retire at the end

of the season, his 17th. He received a standing ovation when he came to the plate in the first, and Cardinals starter Lance Lynn stood behind the mound and waited as the crowd saluted Helton.

BREWERS 6, CUBS 1
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Caleb Gindl had three hits, including a two-run home run, as Wily Peralta pitched six strong innings to lead the Brewers to a win over the Cubs.

The Brewers' fourth win in five games moved them 3½ games above Chicago at the bottom of the NL Central.

Peralta (10-15) gave up an unearned run on five hits. He struck out seven while walking two.

Edwin Jackson (8-16) lasted only four innings for the Cubs, giving up two runs on two hits and three walks. Jackson has the most losses of any pitcher in the NL. Peralta is second with 15. DIAMONDBACKS 2, DODGERS 1

PHOENIX (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run home run in the first inning and Trevor Cahill and three relievers made it stand up in Arizona's win over Los Angeles. Goldschmidt raised his NL-leading RBI total to 116 with his 33rd home run off Dodgers starter Ryu Hyun-jin (13-7). Goldschmidt has homered in each of his last two games after an 83 at-bat drought. With Los Angeles' fourth loss in a row and the Diamond-

backs third straight win, the Dodgers' magic number to clinch the NL West remains four.

Ryu (13-7) went the distance for his second complete game, allowing only the two runs on two hits in eight innings. He walked one, struck out four and retired 23 of the final 24 batters he faced.

Cahill (7-10) won for the fourth straight decision, holding Los Angeles to one run on two hits over 5 2-3 innings.

In other NL games it was Philadelphia 12, Miami 2; San Diego 2, Pittsburgh 0; Milwaukee 6, Chicago Cubs 1; Cincinnati 6, Houston 1; Colorado 6, St. Louis 2; and Arizona 2, L.A. Dodgers 1. □

Fertility, Naturally

By: Dr. Carlos Viana



Fecundity or being able to have children has always been an issue. Virtually all cultures have had a means of venerating the Supreme Being as a Divine Female that could be asked to help with fertility problems. Whether you already have child and would like more children or hope to have a family in the future, the physical and psychological health of both partners as well as lifestyle can greatly affect your chances of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby.

Unfortunately, the U.S. National Survey of Family Growth reported that impaired fecundity rose significantly between 1982 and 1995, the biggest increase in women under 25 and it's still rising. Similar findings from Europe show that 40 percent of men entering the draft in Denmark have low sperm count levels associated with infertility.

If you're under 35 and have been trying to get pregnant for less than a year (or fewer than six months if you're over 35), you have no reason to be concerned yet. To make sure you're doing all you can to enhance your chances of getting pregnant come in for a consultation. If you've had frequent unprotected sex for more than a year (six months if you're over 35) without conceiving, you or your partner may have a condition that's interfering with your chances of conceiving. A doctor can diagnose a fertility problem.

Researchers estimate that as many as one in ten couples have trouble getting pregnant

and this is expected to rise. If you're having trouble, that doesn't mean you'll never have children. Many couples need extra time or medical intervention to get pregnant. We have found many of our fecundity (fertility/pregnancy) patients have a health imbalance, emotional stress or simply need sexual education. Our couples have had success using a combination of detoxification, clinical nutrition, couples counseling and Traditional Chinese Medical (TCM) therapies that we offer in our clinic. We have found that by supporting and balancing both partners, we can enhance the positive outcomes.

Women tend to have fertility problems when they have a history of: endometriosis, uterine fibroids, pelvic inflammatory disease, blocked Fallopian tubes from a previous infection or surgery, or chronic illness such as diabetes, cancer, or thyroid disease. Sexually transmitted disease (STD's) can adversely affect chances of getting pregnant. Women who have painful or irregular periods or excessive facial and body hair have hormonal imbalances impacting fecundity. Finally, women can have pain during intercourse or be allergic to their partner's sperm.

Men can have problems if they have a history of: infection with the mumps virus after puberty, diabetes, cancer, thyroid disease, undescended testicles, testicular tumors, cysts or cancer, or varicoceles (varicose veins in the scrotum.) Heat kills sperm,

so tight underwear, hot tub, saunas, and frequent long-distance bike rides can greatly reduce your sperm count.

In both we want to make sure that neither smokes tobacco nor marijuana nor uses alcohol to excess. Studies show that under or overweight couples have a harder time getting pregnant and having a healthy pregnancy.

Reports show that men working with pesticides have higher rates of infertility. Women, whose mother's were exposed to the pesticide, DDT needed increased time to get pregnant. Another fertility and health concern is a chemical used plastics and the lining of cans, bisphenol A (BPA). The latest studies show that men who carry cell phones in pants pocket or clipped to their belts may be exposing their testicles to damaging radiofrequency electromagnetic waves according to Ashok Agarwal, PhD, director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine at the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute in Cleveland.

Since chemicals, pesticides and cell phones are part of modern life, precautionary methods like using protection and minimizing use and exposure may help. Choose glass over plastic, use natural house cleaners, organic body products and non-toxic garden products.

Besides, lifestyle changes, to increase chance of pregnancy, the woman can keep track of her basal body temperature daily and check for changes in cervical mucus

to determine her ovulation cycle. New, accurate home fertility scopes are available as well as urine fertility testing for daily charting. When you know your fertile days, planning is easier.

I recommend the man-on-top position which allows for the deepest penetration and places sperm closer to egg. When a woman has an orgasm the mouth of the womb extends to the vaginal floor and picks up the sperm. I recommend woman have an orgasm after their partner. Lastly, stress can affect appetite, emotions, and the hormones required to release the eggs. If you're stressed out, you may ovulate later or not at all. As many couples trying to get pregnant know, feeling anxious and overwhelmed can kill your sex drive.

In early pregnancy a woman's body produces an elevated level of hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin). About 14 days after fertilization (the time you would expect your period) the amount of HCG has increased so that, some home pregnancy tests may be able to detect the hormone in your urine and give you a positive result. Most home pregnancy tests are not sensitive enough to guarantee you an accurate result in a couple of days of conceiving. You're more likely to get an accurate result if you wait until a week after your expected period before testing.

Get the Point! If you really want to increase your chances of getting pregnant and having a healthy baby, before you try arti-

cial methods, come in for a natural fecundity workup. Being healthy before pregnancy, gives your baby a healthy start. We're here to answer your questions. Meanwhile a small offering to a fecundity deity won't hurt.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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Brazil looks to break from U.S.-centric Internet

BRADLEY BROOKS
FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Brazil plans to divorce itself from the U.S.-centric Internet over Washington's widespread online spying, a move that many experts fear will be a potentially dangerous first step toward fracturing a global network built with minimal interference by governments.

President Dilma Rousseff ordered a series of measures aimed at greater Brazilian online independence and security following revelations that the U.S. National Security Agency intercepted her communications, hacked into the state-owned Petrobras oil company's network and spied on Brazilians who entrusted their personal data to U.S. tech companies such as Facebook and Google.

The leader is so angered by the espionage that on Tuesday she postponed next month's scheduled trip to Washington, where she was to be honored with a state dinner.

Internet security and policy experts say the Brazilian government's reaction to information leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden is understandable, but warn it could set the Internet on a course of Balkanization.

"The global backlash is only beginning and will get far more severe in coming months," said Sascha Meinrath, director of the Open Technology Institute at the Washington-based New America Foundation think tank. "This notion of national privacy sovereignty is going to be an increasingly salient issue around the globe."

While Brazil isn't proposing to bar its citizens from

U.S.-based Web services, it wants their data to be stored locally as the nation assumes greater control over Brazilians' Internet use to protect them from NSA snooping.

The danger of mandating that kind of geographic isolation, Meinrath said, is that it could render inoperable popular software applications and services and endanger the Internet's open, interconnected structure.

The effort by Latin America's biggest economy to digitally isolate itself from U.S. spying not only could be costly and difficult, it could encourage repressive governments to seek greater technical control over the Internet to crush free expression at home, experts say.

In December, countries advocating greater "cyber-sovereignty" pushed for such control at an International Telecommunications Union meeting in Dubai, with Western democracies led by the United States and the European Union in opposition.

U.S. digital security expert Bruce Schneier says that while Brazil's response is a rational reaction to NSA spying, it is likely to embolden "some of the worst countries out there to seek more control over their citizens' Internet. That's Russia, China, Iran and Syria."

Rousseff says she intends to push for international rules on privacy and security in hardware and software during the U.N. General Assembly meeting later this month. Among Snowden revelations: the NSA has created backdoors in software and Web-based services.

Brazil is now pushing more aggressively than any oth-



In this Nov. 12, 2007 file photo, people uses the internet during the Internet Governance Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

er nation to end U.S. commercial hegemony on the Internet. More than 80 percent of online search, for example, is controlled by U.S.-based companies.

Most of Brazil's global Internet traffic passes through the United States, so Rousseff's government plans to lay underwater fiber optic cable directly to Europe and also link to all South American nations to create what it hopes will be a network free of U.S. eavesdropping.

More communications integrity protection is expected when Telebras, the state-run telecom company, works with partners to oversee the launch in 2016 of Brazil's first communications satellite, for military and public Internet traffic. Brazil's military currently relies on a satellite run by Embratel, which Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim controls.

Rousseff is urging Brazil's Congress to compel Facebook, Google and all companies to store data generated by Brazilians on servers physically located in-

side Brazil in order to shield it from the NSA.

If that happens, and other nations follow suit, Silicon Valley's bottom line could be hit by lost business and higher operating costs: Brazilians rank No. 3 on Facebook and No. 2 on Twitter and YouTube. An August study by a respected U.S. technology policy nonprofit estimated the fallout from the NSA spying scandal could cost the U.S. cloud computing industry, which stores data remotely to give users easy access from any device, as much as \$35 billion by 2016 in lost business.

Brazil also plans to build more Internet exchange points, places where vast amounts of data are relayed, in order to route Brazilians' traffic away from potential interception. And its postal service plans by next year to create an encrypted email service that could serve as an alternative to Gmail and Yahoo!, which according to Snowden-leaked documents are among U.S. tech giants that have collabo-

rated closely with the NSA. "Brazil intends to increase its independent Internet connections with other countries," Rousseff's office said in an emailed response to questions from The Associated Press on its plans. It cited a "common understanding" between Brazil and the European Union on data privacy, and said "negotiations are underway in South America for the deployment of land connections between all nations." It said Brazil plans to boost investment in home-grown technology and buy only software and hardware that meet government data privacy specifications.

While the plans' technical details are pending, experts say they will be costly for Brazil and ultimately can be circumvented. Just as people in China and Iran defeat government censors with tools such as "proxy servers," so could Brazilians bypass their government's controls.

International spies, not just from the United States, also will adjust, experts said. □

What to watch for Wednesday from the Fed

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — If there's one thing global investors are hoping for when the Federal Reserve ends a policy meeting Wednesday, it's this:

No surprises.

Pretty much everyone expects the Fed to take its first step toward slowing the economic stimulus it's supplied since the financial crisis and the Great Recession swept through the economy five years ago.

Yet it's also assumed the Fed will do so gingerly: with a small cut in its monthly Treasury and mortgage bond purchases — from \$85 billion to perhaps \$75 billion. Those purchases have helped keep long-term loan rates ultra-low to encourage borrowing and spending.

The Fed is also expected to stress that while it's slowing its bond purchases, it plans no change anytime soon in its benchmark short-term rate. It's kept that rate at a record low near zero since 2008. Investors will be watching for anything the Fed says about this rate, which affects rates on countless business and consumer loans.

Here's what to look for from each of four key events Wednesday: a statement the Fed will issue when its two-day meeting ends; the Fed's updated economic outlook; Chairman Ben Bernanke's news conference; and the reaction of investors:

- FED STATEMENT

This is where the Fed would announce its first slowdown in bond purchases. Many economists expect the cut to come entirely from the Fed's \$45 billion a month

record low. In December, the Fed began saying it expects to keep this rate near zero at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent — as long as the inflation outlook remains mild.



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke was a shy, methodical academic. But he turned out to be one of the most daring leaders in the Fed's history — even if his goals have not been fully realized.

(Minh Uong/The New York Times)

in Treasury bond purchases. That would leave untouched its \$40 billion a month in mortgage bond purchases.

The reasoning: The mortgage bond buying is intended to keep downward pressure on mortgage rates. The Fed likely doesn't want to diminish its support for the housing market, whose gradual but steady comeback has been a pillar for the U.S. economic recovery.

The statement is also where the Fed could strengthen its commitment to keep its key short-term rate at a

Unemployment is now 7.3 percent. And in the past 12 months, consumer prices are up 1.5 percent, below the Fed's 2 percent inflation target.

The Fed could stress anew that 6.5 percent unemployment is merely a threshold, not a trigger, for any rate increase. Which means it might choose to keep the benchmark rate at a record low for an extended period even after unemployment has dipped below 6.5 percent.

That's especially true if unemployment is dropping mainly because more peo-

ple have stopped looking for work, rather than because employers are hiring lots of people. The government doesn't count people as unemployed once they stop looking for a job.

- ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

This is one of four meetings each year when the Fed updates its economic outlook, based on individual forecasts of board members and regional bank presidents. It's likely to downgrade its outlook as it takes account of reality: The U.S. economy hasn't grown as fast this year as the Fed had expected.

In their previous forecast three months ago, Fed officials predicted that the economy would grow between 2.3 percent and 2.6 this year and between 3 percent and 3.5 percent next year. Most economists think the economy will have grown 2 percent — at best — this year and roughly 2.6 percent next year. The Fed will update its forecasts for unemployment and inflation, too.

Besides updating its outlook for 2013, 2014 and 2015, the Fed will offer its first economic predictions for 2016.

These numbers will be watched for any hint that the Fed has grown more or less optimistic. More optimism could mean the Fed feels the economy could handle future rate increases relatively soon. Less optimism could signal that any rate increases remain further off. □

Ecotality files for bankruptcy protection

NEW YORK (AP) — Ecotality, which makes charging systems for electric vehicles, has filed for bankruptcy protection and wants to sell its assets in an auction. Ecotality Inc. said it made the filing Monday in Arizona. The company had said in August that it might be forced into a sale or bankruptcy filing after disappointing sales and a suspension of payments from the federal government. It has also paid \$855,000 in back wages and damages to resolve an investigation by the Department of Labor into allegations that the company broke labor laws.

The San Francisco company makes charging and power-storage systems for electric vehicles under the Blink and Minit Charger brands, including charging stations for the Nissan Leaf. It also does testing for government agencies, auto makers and utilities.

Ecotality wants to sell its assets through a bankruptcy auction, which the bankruptcy court must approve. The company also said Nissan will allow it to borrow as much as \$1.3 million. The court will also review that proposed loan.

Ecotality has received more than \$100 million in funding from the Department of Energy since 2009. The company has also received funding from the state of California and from Australia.

The Energy Department suspended payments to Ecotality after the company said in August that it might not be able to meet its obligations to the agency's electric vehicle program if it couldn't find new financing.

Ecotality's revenue nearly doubled to \$54.7 million in 2012. The company took an annual loss of \$9.6 million, narrower than its \$22.5 million loss in 2011.

But the company said last month that it was unable to sell enough commercial electric vehicle equipment to sustain operations in the second half of the year. □

Microsoft board boosts dividend by 22 pct

REDMOND,

Washington (AP)

— Microsoft said Tuesday that its board approved a 22 percent increase in the company's quarterly dividend to 28 cents along with a new \$40 billion stock buyback program. The new dividend represents an increase of 5 cents over the world's largest software company's previous dividend. It will be paid on Dec. 12 to shareholders of record as of Nov. 21. The increase in the dividend will cost Microsoft an

extra \$416 million per quarter, based on the 8.33 billion shares that FactSet says the company has outstanding. Meanwhile, the new stock buyback program has no expiration date and replaces Microsoft's previous \$40 billion stock buyback program that was set to expire on Sept. 30.

Microsoft Chief Financial Officer Amy Hood said the moves reflect the company's continued commitment to returning cash to its shareholders.

The software company has made a number of big moves recently. Earlier this month, Microsoft announced a \$7.2 billion deal to buy Nokia's troubled smartphone business in hopes of catching up with the shift toward mobile computing. While Microsoft's software business remains profitable, it has come under pressure as more people move away from traditional desktops and laptops and toward mobile devices like smart-

phones and tablets.

In addition, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, who negotiated the Nokia deal, recently announced plans to retire within the next year, admitting that the company needs a different leader to take it in a new direction. Shares of Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft Corp. rose 17 cents to \$32.97 in morning trading. That takes the stock closer to its 52-week high of \$36.43 set July 16. It traded as low as \$26.26 last December. □

Stocks close higher as Fed kicks off 2-day meeting

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Stocks rose on Tuesday as investors shrugged off worries about what the Federal Reserve is up to.

Many expect the Fed to announce Wednesday that it will reduce its \$85 billion monthly bond-buying program. Wall Street is hoping for a small reduction because the bond-buying has kept interest rates ultra-low and made it cheaper to borrow money.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed higher by 34.95 points, or 0.2 percent, at 15,529.73.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 7.16 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,704.76. The S&P 500 was five points below its record high reached on Aug. 2. It has risen for three trading days in a row, and 10 of the last 11. Nine out of 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 rose, led by technology. The only declines were for materials stocks, which include miners, industrial gas producers and metal refiners.

Rising tech stocks included the video game company Electronic Arts, which is getting a solid start with this year's version of its Madden football franchise. Electronic Arts rose 64 cents, or 2 percent, to \$27.60.

Computer memory maker Micron Technology rose 40 cents, or 2 percent, to \$16.84 as investors bet that memory prices will rise after a fire shut down a competi-

tor's factory in China.

By some measures, stock market values are as high as they were at the end of the Internet bubble in 2000, when compared to the size of the nation's economy,

way stocks could keep climbing regardless of valuations. "This thing is a powerful beast," he said. The current bull market is four-and-a-half years old.

The Labor Department re-

could support, going into 2014, prices going a little higher," said Jim Dunigan, managing executive of investments for PNC Wealth Management in Philadelphia.

Safeway said it adopted a "poison-pill" defense measure to thwart any hostile takeover attempt.

Aeropostale jumped \$1.56, or 18 percent, to \$10.17 after Sycamore Partners disclosed an 8 percent stake in the teen retailer. And Huntsman, a chemical maker, rose 36 cents, or 2 percent, to \$19.50 after saying it will pay \$1.1 billion for two businesses from Rockwood Holdings, which rose 60 cents, or 2 percent, to \$67.21.

Other companies making big moves included:

— Abercrombie & Fitch rode Aeropostale's coat-tails, moving up \$1.09, or 3 percent, to \$38.43.

— Microsoft rose after announcing a 22 percent dividend increase and a \$40 billion stock buyback program. Microsoft gained 13 cents, or 0.4 percent, to \$32.93, after going as high as \$33.47 in the morning.

— Boeing rose \$1.44, or 1.2 percent, to \$117.11 as a stretched version of its new 787 flew for the first time. Boeing's gain was responsible for one-third of the Dow's rise.

— Outerwall, which owns the Redbox DVD kiosks, plunged \$6.48, or almost 12 percent, to \$49.49 after slashing its outlook because of weaker-than-expected demand for discs.

The price of crude oil fell \$1.17, or 1.1 percent, to close at \$105.42 a barrel in New York. □



Trader Christopher Morie, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks rose on Tuesday as investors shrugged off worries about what the Federal Reserve is up to.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

said Martin Leclerc, a principal and chief investment officer at Barrack Yard Advisors in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Then, there was at least the justification of new technology.

"Now, the only justification we have is cheap money," Leclerc said.

Nonetheless, Leclerc said, with a bull market under-

ported on Tuesday that U.S. consumer prices barely rose last month, another sign that slow economic growth is keeping inflation low. That pushed the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note down slightly, to 2.85 percent from 2.86 percent late Monday.

Rising profits "support stock prices where they are, and

"Most, if not all, the evidence would suggest the economy is improving," he said. A few companies benefited from large investments. Safeway, a major grocery store chain, jumped \$2.95, or more than 10 percent, to \$30.99 after saying an unnamed investor had bought a significant amount of its stock.

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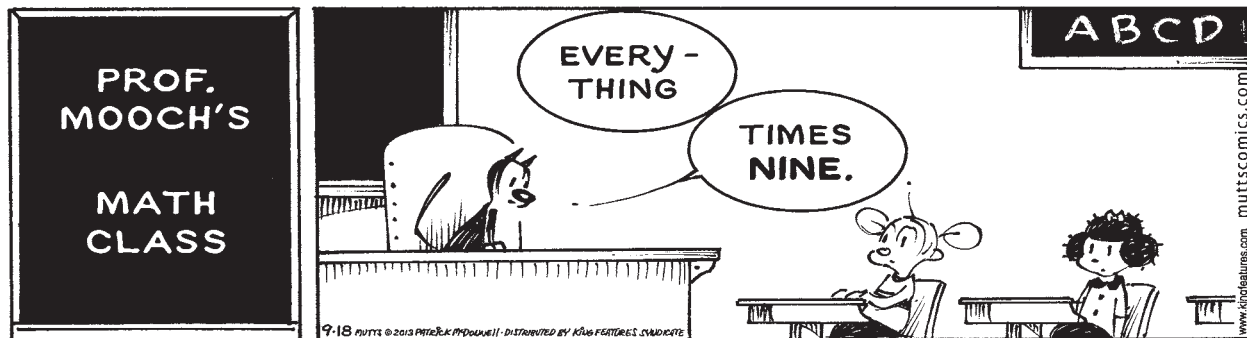
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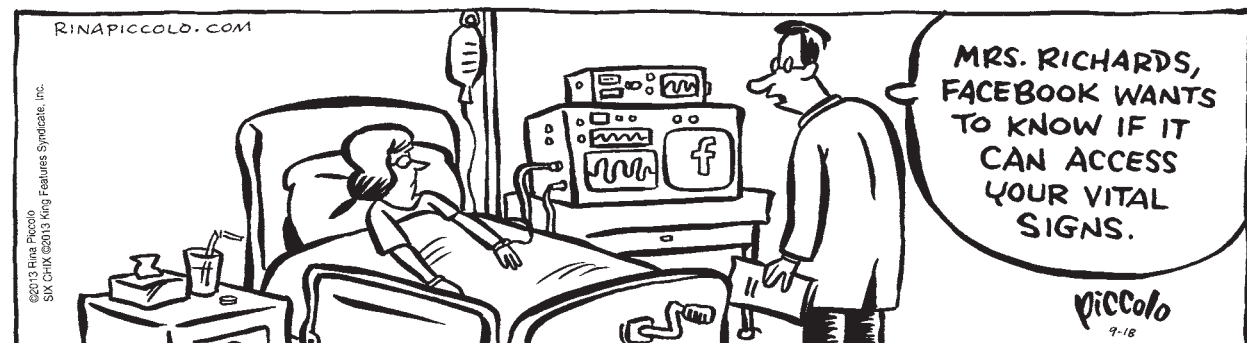


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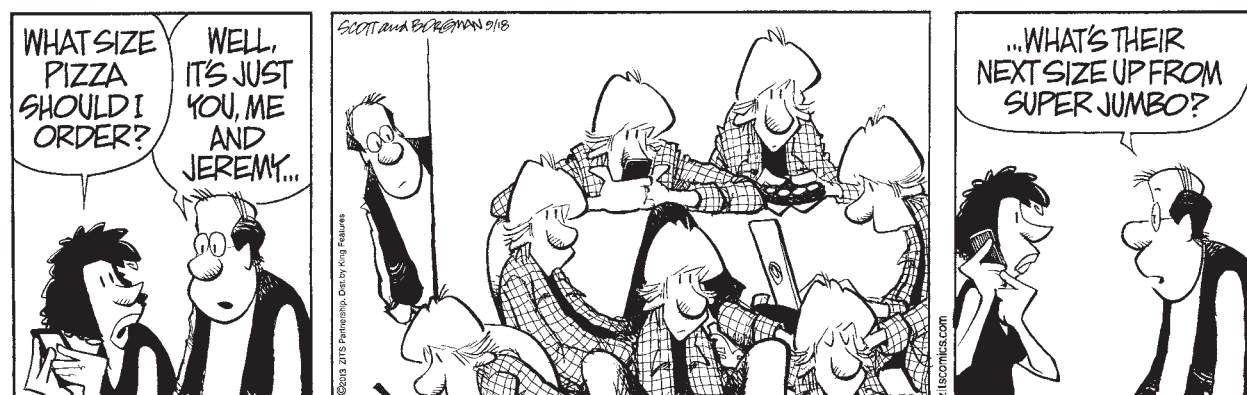
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				9				
			8		7			
		3				2		
		9		4		6		
	8	1				7	5	
4	2	6		1		3	9	8
		7				5		
	5	8	4		3	1	2	
2	3			5			8	7

Difficulty Level ★★

9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

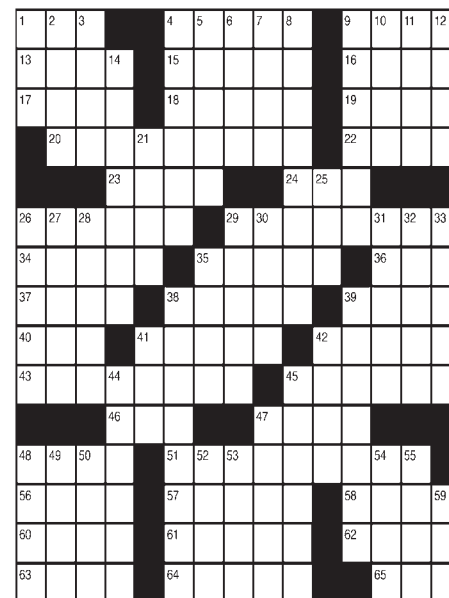
7	2	3	6	1	5	8	9	4
9	4	1	8	2	7	5	6	3
6	5	8	9	3	4	2	7	1
8	1	7	3	5	2	6	4	9
3	9	5	4	8	6	1	2	7
2	6	4	7	9	1	3	8	5
4	3	2	1	7	8	9	5	6
5	7	9	2	6	3	4	1	8
1	8	6	5	4	9	7	3	2

ACROSS

- Mongrel dog
- Passenger
- Count calories
- On __ own; independent
- Wear away
- Jealousy
- Have supper
- Europe's longest river
- Make a tiny cut
- Caused great distress to
- Tiny bit of land in the ocean
- One of the planets
- "__ a long way to Tipperary..."
- Stand up against
- Written study of a subject
- Reddish horses
- Banquet
- Caribbean __
- Mountain range seen from Bern
- Incline
- Singer Crosby
- Tell a fib
- Come __; ravel
- Washing machine cycle
- Coeds' group
- Hang around
- __ person; apiece
- __ at; skilled in
- Knighted woman's title
- Demanding
- Kiln
- In __; weeping
- Kitchen or den
- Ten-cent piece
- Bird of prey
- Days of __; yesteryear
- Fragrance
- Gown
- At this time

DOWN

- Fish often used for fish & chips
- College credit



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/18/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	R	E	S		U	P	O	N		S	P	A	N			
A	G	E	N	T		N	O	N	E		A	L	S	O			
I	R	A	T	E		D	E	E	P		M	A	I	N			
D	E	L	I	R	I	U	M		A	G	E	N	D	A			
						C	I	T	E		S	L	A	N	T		
A	N	G	E	L	A		B	O	I	S	E						
L	O	O	E	L	D	E	R		P	S	Y	C	H				
O	V	E	R		Y	A	L	T	A		S	O	L	E			
G	A	S	E	S		D	I	S	C	S		G	U	M			
						S	U	E	D	E		R	U	B	I	E	S
D	E	S	T	I	N					H	E	R	R				
A	V	I	A	T	E		B	E	S	M	I	R	C	H			
R	A	N	T			R	H	E	A		I	D	A	H	O		
E	D	G	E			G	O	A	L		S	A	R	I	S		
D	E	E	D			Y	E	N	S		E	L	E	C	T		

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9/18/13

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 38 Lively | 47 Little ladies |
| 39 Book-making factory | 48 Airhead |
| 41 "___ you kidding me?" | 49 Enthusiastic |
| 42 Street uprising | 50 Short note |
| 44 Can __; kitchen appliance | 52 Nigh |
| 45 Defeats | 53 Wise man |
| | 54 Lunchtime |
| | 55 Spanish bull |
| | 59 Cat's cry |

Indulging his inner New Jersey child in the kitchen

JEFF GORDINIER

© 2013 New York Times

SOUTH AMBOY, N.J. - "I was thinking maybe we should get some Def Leppard going," Bill Telepan said, nodding toward the tabletop jukebox at the Peterpank Diner on Route 9. He was recalling the nights he spent here in the 1980s, with "that feathered Jersey hair and big glasses," joking around with friends, listening to tunes and consuming plate after plate of onion rings.

If, back then, someone had told Telepan that a rendition of those onion rings would someday appear on the menu of a sophisticated restaurant on the Upper West Side of Manhattan - a restaurant with his own surname on the awning - he probably would have laughed it off and cranked up the hair metal. In those days, he accumulated plenty of experience working in restaurants in and around Sayreville, N.J., his hometown, but he didn't imagine a career in cooking. He had a sensible plan. He wanted to attend community college and become an electrical engineer.

But sensible lost out. "It just wasn't for me," he said. "I missed cooking. I missed the energy of it."

Pretty soon he enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America; then came passages in the kitchens at Le Bernardin and Le Cirque and Gotham Bar & Grill, and a triumphant run at Judson Grill, and, in 2005, the debut of his namesake restaurant.

Still, it's more than a figure of speech to say that Telepan, who's now 47, never forgot his Route 9 roots. Drop by his restaurant for lunch and you'll find a burger on the menu - a burger that's accompanied by a "volcano" of molten crunch. "It's an onion-ring mountain with French-fry lava," the chef explained. "That's the Jersey in me." (Of course, Telepan and his crew deepen the flavor of the rings by dunking them in a batter made with a sour-

dough starter that dates back to 1996.)

These days Telepan finds himself at a pivotal moment: He just finished a renovation at Telepan, and he's about to open a tapas-style TriBeCa offshoot, Telepan Local, in November. So this summer he was in the mood to head back to a few New Jersey haunts that have been a stealth influence on his handiwork. "Subconsciously, all this stuff comes back to me," he said.

The dip into his subconscious started at the Peter-

pank, where he surmised that the onion rings were probably frozen - until a server, Aprilynn Raslowsky, piped up to correct him. "They make them here," she said. "They always have."

Telepan's face broke into a grin. "Awesome," he said. Next it was off to the Jersey Shore. During the summer months of his childhood, Telepan would make himself at home among the thrill rides and food stalls of Point Pleasant Beach. He wanted to try a slice of pizza at Martell's Tiki Bar, a

longtime party spot that, almost a year ago, had a strip of its pier torn out by Hurricane Sandy. "I'm just hoping it hasn't changed," he said.

Going back to the Boardwalk qualified as a minor revelation. Somehow Martell's was back in full swing, and the slice, upon which Telepan administered a blizzard of oregano and pepper flakes and Parmesan, rocked. "Thin crust," he said, folding it before taking a serious bite. "A good amount of everything. Very well balanced." □



Bill Telepan, a chef who owns a restaurant in New York, gets pizza at Martell's Tiki Bar in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., Aug. 16, 2013. Telepan, who grew up along Route 9 and the Jersey Shore, recently returned to visit the area and some of its dining establishments that have had a stealth influence on his cooking.
(Alex di Suvero/The New York Times)

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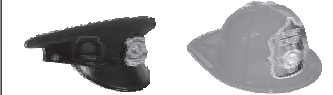
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Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

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U.S. company about to make first space station run

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

A Virginia company is all set to make its first-ever supply run to the International Space Station.

On the eve of its premiere rendezvous mission, Orbital Sciences Corp. said everything looked good for Wednesday's launch from Virginia's Eastern Shore.

An unmanned Antares rocket was scheduled to blast off from NASA's Wallops Island Facility at 10:50 a.m. EDT, carrying 1,300 pounds (590 kilograms) of food, clothes and other items as part of a test flight. A Sunday delivery is planned.

A launch demo of the rocket in April went well.

If this latest mission succeeds, Orbital Sciences will start launching more Cygnus cargo ships under a \$1.9 billion contract with NASA. The commercial effort began more than five years ago.

The California-based SpaceX already is shipping goods from Cape Canaveral, Florida, under a sepa-



An unmanned Antares rocket sits on the launch pad at Wallops Island, Va. in an undated photo provided by NASA.

Associated Press

rate \$1.6 billion contract. Its first trip was in May last year.

Formally known as Space Exploration Technologies Corp., the company founded by billionaire Elon Musk of PayPal fame has the only unmanned vessel capable of returning space station

items to Earth. The SpaceX Dragon parachutes into the Pacific off the Southern California coast.

The smaller Cygnus capsule will be filled with space station trash following its monthlong visit and burn up upon descent. That's the same fate as the Rus-

sian, European and Japanese supply ships.

NASA is looking to private U.S. industry to keep the space station stocked in the post-shuttle era. It's also putting seed money into SpaceX and other companies for development of a manned capsule. That's still

years away, so NASA will continue to buy rides for its astronauts on Russian rockets. One American will be aboard the Soyuz capsule due to take off next week from Kazakhstan, along with two Russians.

The trio will double the station population to its normal six.

Wallops was in the spotlight earlier this month. On Sept. 6, NASA launched a robotic explorer, named LADEE, to the moon. It's still en route. Orbital Sciences provided the Minotaur V rocket used in the moon-shot.

Frank Culbertson, the company's executive vice president and a former space shuttle commander, said Tuesday that the excitement level is high.

"This is one of the most exciting things that is happening in the middle of a very exciting month for Orbital, for NASA and for space programs around the world," Culbertson said at a news conference, referring to all the various launches and re-entries. □



In this Aug. 27, 2103 file photo, an ear of corn is blackened in the sun during a heat wave in Farmingdale, Ill. Researchers with the United States and British governments concluded Thursday Sept. 5, 2013, that climate change had made these events more likely: U.S. heat waves, Superstorm Sandy flooding, shrinking Arctic sea ice, drought in Europe's Iberian peninsula, and extreme rainfall in Australia and New Zealand.

Associated Press

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — International leaders are failing in their fight against global warming, one of the United Nations' top climate officials said Tuesday, appealing directly to the world's

voters to pressure their politicians into taking tougher action against the buildup of greenhouse gases.

Halldor Thorgeirsson told journalists gathered at London's Imperial College that world's leaders weren't working hard enough to

U.N. official: World failing over climate change

prevent potentially catastrophic climate change.

"We are failing as an international community," he said. "We are not on track."

Thorgeirsson, a senior director with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was speaking with two years left to go before the world powers gather in Paris for another round of negotiations over the future of the world's climate, which scientists warn will warm dramatically unless action is taken to cut down on the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

One of the main points of contention is how to divide the burden of emissions cuts between industrialized nations and emerging economies such as India

and China, the world's top carbon polluter. The lack of progress in recent years has fueled doubts over whether a binding deal is possible at all.

Thorgeirsson seemed to strike a pessimistic note Tuesday, talking down the idea that Paris — or any other conference — would produce a grand bargain that would ensure the reductions needed to prevent a dangerous warming of the Earth's atmosphere. He even seemed to suggest that a global solution to the issue wasn't likely until the effects of climate change came barreling down on peoples' heads or flooding into their homes.

"I don't think that an international treaty will ever be the primary driver for the difficult decisions to be

made," he warned. "It's the problem itself that will be the primary driver — and the consequences of that problem."

Quizzed on the repeated failure of the international community to organize a global deal on greenhouse gases, he said that the politicians involved had to be held to account.

"This is a question that needs to be asked at the ballot box," he said. "This is a question that needs to be asked of leaders at all levels."

Thorgeirsson was in London for the launch of a joint study by Imperial's Grantham Institute for Climate Change and its Energy Futures Laboratory of the estimated cost of halving the world's carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. □

Rockwell returns to 'dark stuff' for 'Single Shot'

LAURI NEFF
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the crime drama thriller "A Single Shot," Sam Rockwell stars as John Moon, a man who gets caught up in a tense cat-and-mouse struggle with a pack of hardened criminals after mistakenly shooting a woman and then discovering a box of cash by her body. Rockwell describes Moon as a "down-on-his-luck" anti-hero who is really trying to "get reunited with his family."

Moon is a character familiar to Rockwell, who is known for taking on dark, off-kilter characters such as the crazed prisoner "Wild Bill" Wharton in "The Green

Mile" or the unemployed actor and dognapper Billy Bickle in "Seven Psychopaths."

While he takes on other kinds of roles, like the affable water park manager Owen in "The Way Way Back" or a serious journalist in "Frost/Nixon," Rockwell acknowledges that he's attracted to "dark stuff."

"I love to go back to this kind of stuff and shake it up a little bit," he said in a recent interview to promote "A Single Shot," which opens in theaters Friday. He said some of his offbeat characters seem to be "a kind of cousin" and that he returns to these roles the way some actors revisit "Hamlet" or Stanley Kowal-

ski in an effort "to perfect an archetype."

Rockwell, meanwhile, confirmed he's in talks to appear opposite Rosemarie DeWitt in a remake of "Poltergeist," saying he and the filmmakers are "just addressing some script stuff but I think it may be happening."

He said 1982's "Poltergeist" was a "big deal" for him. "I was blown away by that film." He also said the new movie won't reprise the characters played by JoBeth Williams and Craig T. Nelson. "It's a very different story," Rockwell said. "They're a little more working class."

The 44-year-old actor said he's heard there has been



In this Sept. 13, 2013 file photo, actor Sam Rockwell at a news conference for the feature film "Conviction" during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. The 44-year-old actor said he's heard there has been some chatter about a possible Oscar nomination for his role in "The Way Way Back," but he doesn't take it seriously.

Associated Press

some chatter about a possible Oscar nomination for his role in "The Way Way Back," but he doesn't take

it seriously.

"Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz," he said. "It is what it is. That's why they call it buzz." □

Kendrick Lamar is top Soul Train Awards nominee

NEW YORK (AP) — Kendrick Lamar is the top nominee for the Soul Train Awards.

The rapper is up for six awards, including album of the year for "good kid,

m.A.A.d city" and song and video of the year for "Poetic Justice."

R&B singers Justin Timberlake, Miguel, Robin Thicke, Chris Brown and Tamar

Braxton follow with five nominations each.

The latest albums from Lamar, Timberlake and Miguel will battle efforts from Jay-Z, Rihanna and Fantasia for

album of the year. Lamar's other nominations include best new artist, hip-hop song of the year and collaboration.

The Soul Train Awards will

be presented Nov. 8 in Las Vegas. The awards will air Dec. 1 on BET and Centric. Actor-comedian Anthony Anderson will host the show. □

Britney Spears announces Las Vegas residency

NEW YORK (AP) — After months of rumors and hint-dropping, pop icon Britney Spears revealed what she called her "(not-so)-secret" news — she's heading to Las Vegas.

The 31-year-old pop star confirmed a two-year residency at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday. "Britney: Piece of Me" will debut Dec. 27, just in time for Las Vegas' massive New Year's crowds. Spears announced 16 dates, but she will perform 50 shows each in 2014 and 2015.

Spears was airlifted to a dry lake bed in the Nevada desert for the pre-dawn announcement. About 1,300 people had been bused to the remote location in the wee hours of the morning, and were waiting for her dressed in

Britney Spears T-shirts or the singer's signature schoolgirl look from her "... Baby One More Time" music video.

The Grammy-winning singer's confirmation about the residency comes after much online speculation,

including some of her own Vegas-themed tweets. She said in an interview on "GMA" that the show will feature her greatest hits as well as new material.

"I'm definitely ready," she said in a taped interview,

adding that she's training five hours each day.

Spears' helicopter hovered in the desert above her fans, who were holding giant cards that formed a 10-story-tall picture of her. The singer stepped off the aircraft and said she was feeling sick.

After a second — and live — interview with "GMA," she headed back to the helicopter, barely smiling and offering little more than a wave.

A tweet about the experience later showed up on her Twitter profile.

"Y'all that will be the last time u EVER see me in a helicopter. Love u @GMA & that was INCREDIBLE but helicopters are not for this girl :(" it read.

Tickets for "Britney: Piece of Me" go on sale Sept. 20. Prices range from \$59 to \$179.

She'll be the city's first pop music resident artist, according to Kurt Melien of Planet Hollywood parent company Caesars Entertainment, and her show "will revolutionize the entertainment landscape in Las Vegas."

The show will take place in an "intimately-sized" theater with nightclub touches, including table and bottle service.

Spears, who debuted on the music scene in 1999, has released seven platinum-plus albums. She has more than a dozen Top 10 hits, including "Toxic," "Gimme More" and "Oops!... I Did It Again."

She released a new song, "Work (Expletive)," this week. It's from her untitled eighth album, due out Dec. 3, which will include songs about her ex-fiance Jason Trawick. □



Britney Spears arrives to her announcement for her new show at Planet Hollywood Vegas on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Orlando Bloom, Condola Rashad tackle Shakespeare

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Condola Rashad snagged the coveted role of Juliet opposite Orlando Bloom's Romeo on Broadway, she was overjoyed. Now she could get finally get some answers.

"I'm a huge 'Lord of the Rings' fan," confesses the actress. "There were actually times in rehearsal when I was like, 'OK, not to geek out really quick, but I need to know: What is the difference between an Uruk-hai and an Orc?' I had to know."

Bloom, who played the Elf Legolas in the films based on J.R.R. Tolkien novels, patiently played along. He explained the difference and then blew her mind: "I told her Orcs used to be Elves," he says, laughing. Chemistry is important if you're playing the leads in "Romeo and Juliet," and conversations with both lead actors at the Richard Rodgers Theatre suggest they've got that elusive spark.

"We talk things out, we sense each other. We both know when a scene is off because we're both there together. It's about listening to each other," says Rashad, a rising star on Broadway with back-to-back Tony Award nominations for "Stick Fly" and "The Trip to Bountiful."

For his part, Bloom gushes: "She's wonderful. She's luminous. She has a presence onstage that commands whatever is happening. And those eyes! They're huge, and she's beautiful." His Juliet, he adds, is "perfect casting." While Rashad, who is the daughter of actress Phylicia Rashad of "The Cosby Show" and sportscaster Ahmad Rashad, may be a stage veteran at 26, this marks her first full professional Shakespeare production. Ditto for Bloom, 36, who has never been on Broadway before.

"It's a monster of a play," says Bloom, sadly. "I tend to do this. I tend to set myself some pretty high bars to reach. It's crazy exciting,



This undated publicity image released by The Hartman Group shows Orlando Bloom and Condola Rashad in "Romeo and Juliet," performing on Broadway in New York.

Associated Press

daunting and all the rest. What is there to lose?"

This retelling of the classic love story is set in a timeless, unspecified place, a smashup of the past and present. It seems to be a hot, authoritarian world, where women wear shawls and earth-tones dominate the costumes.

There's sand onstage and graffiti mars the frescos on the back wall. Rashad is often barefoot ("It feels great. I feel grounded," she says), and Bloom makes his entrance on a souped-up Triumph Scrambler. ("It looks like something Steve McQueen would have ridden," he says.)

Bloom, married to supermodel Miranda Kerr and father to 2-year-old Flynn, was cast first while Rashad endured a six-month audition process with up to five callbacks. She kept her process a secret from everyone but her mother, not wanting to deal with the high expectations.

"It's about bravery, Shakespeare. It's about courage," she says. "You have to force yourself to be

brave enough to understand that if you give your everything to the text, it will give it back to you. You have to surrender to the text."

She finally landed the part when director David Leveaux, a five-time Tony Award nominee, put Bloom and Rashad in the same room and heard him laugh with warmth at one of her lines. Now it's hers, which is a little terrifying.

"I have to focus on the work. Yes, it is 'Romeo and Juliet.' And it is epic and it is an iconic role," she says. "But the truth of it is that an icon doesn't think of themselves as an icon. They just are. I have to be the same way."

Their casting added an intriguing element of racial contrast to the classic tale of two star-crossed lovers and Leveaux decided to take it to its logical conclusion: the Capulets will be played by black actors and the Montagues by white actors.

"While it is an interracial 'Romeo and Juliet,' that's not actually something

we're hammering out," Rashad says. "It's not about making it invisible. It's there. Use it! But that's actually not the core of the fight."

The play offers Bloom a chance to return to his roots on the stage. He had studied Shakespeare at London's esteemed Guildhall School of Music and Drama and was to play Duke Orsino in a production of "Twelfth Night" but a fall from a rooftop landed him instead in a hospital.

By the time he had healed, he was about to join the Royal Shakespeare Company but director Peter Jackson whisked him to New Zealand for "The Lord of the Rings" and then he was off on a movie career — "Black Hawk Down," the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise, "Elizabethtown" and "Kingdom of Heaven." In a way, "Romeo and Juliet" offers Bloom a time

machine back to the stage. If his co-star geeks out about Orcs, Bloom does the same about a theater and screen star who recently showed up to see him: Denzel Washington. Bloom would love to model his career on Washington and return to the stage.

"I feel like this is what I was supposed to be doing or at least part of what I was supposed to be doing. I found myself doing movies — which were wonderful and amazing and I love — I've got a collection of movies at home that my son is going to absolutely drool over when he's the right age," he says.

"But for Orlando and for the actor in me, this process is so rewarding and I just feel like I'm going to be a different actor after this. I already feel like a different actor." □

Porn group lifting HIV-prompted filming moratorium

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An adult film trade group will lift its second production moratorium of the past month, saying that an HIV scare has passed.

The Free Speech Coalition announced Monday that the two-week moratorium will end Friday.

The coalition also said it will require more frequent testing of actors for sexually transmitted diseases — every 14 days instead of the previous schedule of 28 days.

"Our industry protocols are designed to be conservative and our doctors support a conservative approach, for the health and well-being of the performers," said Diane Duke, the coalition's CEO.

Critics of the industry have said producers are not protecting performers. The industry has challenged a law passed last year by Los

Angeles County voters that required actors to wear condoms during shoots.

In a written statement, the coalition promised to increase its safety protocols.

"We can do more to help our performers learn how to protect themselves, on screen and off," Duke said. The group called a week-long moratorium last month after a 28-year-old tested positive for HIV. After that production ban was lifted, a second actor was found to have HIV, and another work stoppage was called Sept. 6.

A third performer also tested positive. The coalition says all three appear to have contracted the virus in private life and all of their on-screen partners have tested negative.

A similar work ban was enacted last year after nearly a dozen performers were infected with syphilis. □

Give Jobs A Chance



PAUL KRUGMAN

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This week the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee - the group of men and women who set U.S. monetary policy - will be holding its sixth meeting of 2013. At the meeting's end, the committee is widely expected to announce the "taper" - a slowing of the pace at which it buys long-term assets.

Memo to the Fed: Please don't do it. True, the arguments for a taper are neither crazy nor stupid, which makes them unusual for current U.S. policy debate. But if you think about the balance of risks, this is a bad time to be doing anything that looks like a tightening of monetary policy. OK, what are we talking about here? In normal times, the Fed tries to guide the economy by buying and selling short-term U.S. debt, which effectively lets it control short-term interest rates. Since 2008, however, short-term rates have been near zero, which means that they can't go lower (since people would just hoard cash instead). Yet the economy has remained weak, so the Fed has tried to gain traction through unconventional measures - mainly by buying longer-term bonds, both U.S. government debt and bonds issued by federally sponsored home-lending agencies.

Now the Fed is talking about slowing the pace of these purchases, bringing them to a halt by sometime next year. Why? One answer is the belief that these purchases - especially purchases of government debt - are, in the end, not very effective. There's a fair bit of evidence in support of that belief, and for the view that the most effective thing the Fed can do is signal that it plans to keep short-term rates, which it really does control, low for a very long time.

Unfortunately, financial markets have clearly decided that the taper signals a general turn away from boosting the economy: Expectations of future short-term rates have risen sharply since taper talk began, and so have crucial long-term rates, notably mortgage rates. In effect, by talking about tapering, the Fed has already tightened monetary policy quite a lot.

But is that such a bad thing? That's where the second argument comes in: the suggestions that there really isn't that much slack in the U.S. economy, that we aren't that far from full employment. After all, the unem-

ployment rate, which peaked at 10 percent in late 2009, is now down to 7.3 percent, and there are economists who believe the U.S. economy might begin to "overheat," to show signs of accelerating inflation, at an unemployment rate as high as 6.5 percent. Time for the Fed to take its foot off the gas pedal? I'd say no, for a couple of reasons.

First, there's less to that decline in unemployment than meets the eye. Unemployment hasn't come down because a higher percentage of adults is employed; it's come down almost entirely because a declining percentage of adults is participating in the labor force, either by working or by actively seeking work. And at least some of the Americans who dropped out of the labor force after 2007 will come back in as the economy improves, which means we have more ground to make up than that unemployment number suggests.

How misleading is the unemployment number? That's a hard one, on which reasonable people disagree. The question the Fed should be asking is, what is the balance of risks?

Suppose, on one side, that the Fed were to hold off on tightening, then learn that the economy was closer to full employment than it thought. What would happen? Well, inflation would rise, although probably only modestly. Would that be such a bad thing? Right now inflation is running below the Fed's target of 2 percent, and many serious economists - including, for example, the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund - have argued for a higher target, say 4 percent. So the cost of tightening too late doesn't look very high.

Suppose, on the other side, that the Fed were to tighten early, then learn that it had moved too soon. This could damage an already weak recovery, causing hundreds of billions if not trillions of dollars in economic damage, leaving hundreds of thousands if not millions of additional workers without jobs and inflicting long-term damage as more and more of the unemployed are perceived as unemployable.

The point is that while there is legitimate uncertainty about what the Fed should be doing, the costs of being too harsh vastly exceed the costs of being too lenient. To err is human; to err on the side of growth is wise.

I'd add that one of the prevailing economic policy sins of our time has been allowing hypothetical risks, like the fiscal crisis that never came, to trump concerns over economic damage happening in the here and now. I'd hate to see the Fed fall into that trap.

So my message is, don't do it. Don't taper, don't tighten, until you can see the whites of inflation's eyes. Give jobs a chance. □



Call Me Vlad



ROSS DOUTHAT

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When I came into my office, he was in my chair, feet up, shirt off, an AK-47 propped against the desk.

"President Putin," I said, playing it cool. "Nice Op-Ed last week." He looked up from my computer. "Ah, yes. I was just checking this, how you say, 'most-emailed list' that your New York Times keeps. I see I'm still No. 1."

"Only until someone writes a piece about Ivy League admissions, Mr. President."

His laugh sounded like ice cracking in a Siberian spring. "Call me Vlad," he said. "And tell me: Is it always this easy to get a rise out of you Americans? I watch your TV, I follow your elections. I thought you are used to propaganda."

"Well, if it's our own. But it's different being lectured on peace and human rights by a ruler who doesn't give a fig about either."

"Yes, but all this whining from your politicians. This Bob Menendez saying my piece made him want to vomit - like a podrostok who cannot handle vodka. And John Boehner, I know he sometimes cries like a babushka but to whine that he was insulted by my column ... does he get so offended when he watches the White House's propaganda network, this MSNBC?"

"Actually, the White House doesn't run ..."

"And this anger about the paragraph where I questioned American exceptionalism? After read-

ing the online comments, I concede that American people are exceptional: exceptionally easy to bait."

"Well, you can't blame us for being annoyed with the situation. President Obama traps himself by threatening a war that Congress wouldn't support, you sweep in with a bogus solution he has to accept because the alternative is impotence ..."

"How is the solution we have offered not a good one?"

"Will it lead to Assad giving up his chemical weapons?"

"I have no idea. But the diplomatic to-and-fro makes him unlikely to use them, which is what you wanted, no?"

"Well, the ultimate goal is to remove him from power ..."

He banged his hand on my desk. "This is how it always is! You cannot stop with reasonable goal. You must have unreasonable one. Toppling the Taliban was not enough - you had to repeat our mistake and occupy Afghanistan. Saddam contained was not enough - you wanted regime change, democracy. Killing terrorists is not enough - you want the Muslim world to love you."

"Well, there's that exceptionalism thing"

"Yes, yes, I admit, America really is different. Sometimes, deep in my cold, black heart, I even feel flicker of admiration for that difference ..."

"Well, thanks ..."

"But mostly it makes me insane. I have been dealing with American government for 13 years, and my needs have always been simple, straightforward. I just want what Russian leaders will always want: a sphere of influence, a partner to fight terrorism, stability at home, respect abroad. But your presidents, Bush and Obama - who can tell what they want? One minute they ask me for help in Afghanistan or offer some sort of 'reset' button; the next they push NATO to my borders and try to topple my only

Middle Eastern client ..."

"Well, maybe they both started out hoping that you were something other than a thug and ended up disappointed."

He stroked the AK-47. "Maybe. But you are lucky to have me. After the 1990s, you could have had a crazy revanchist who tried to conquer his neighbors instead of just bullying them like me. Or another clown like Yeltsin, who let everything fall apart. Instead, I've delivered growth, stability, continuity - even our birthrate is now higher than yours!"

"OK," I returned, "but your continuity is just corrupt one-party rule, and your hold on power is actually weakening. You're relying more on demagoguery, cracking down on civil society ..."

"Your Obama would still give his eyeteeth for my approval ratings."

"Touché. But in the long run, you're a prisoner of your corrupt system. You'll either hang on while it crumbles, or step down and end up jailed by your successor."

"I cannot let you change the subject, American columnist. Here is a message to transmit to your readers: As much fun as I had baiting them, part of my Op-Ed was sincere. I am not America's enemy. I do not wish a new Cold War. I do not wish to dominate the Middle East, whatever that means."

"No," he went on, "all I want is an American foreign policy that sees the world as it actually is, and an American leader who can arm-wrestle at my level. Which is what you Americans should want as well, no? Maybe someday you should consider electing one."

He rose, pecs flexing, and looked around my office. "Oh - and if I should need post-presidential career outside of Mother Russia, I think my Op-Ed sets me up nicely to become a columnist for your New York Times, no?"

Then he grinned - a wolf's grin - and showed himself out. □

What Becomes Of The Great Lost Estates?

ERIC ASIMOV

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Recently I attended two extraordinary dinners in New York, one featuring the precise, focused red Burgundies of René Engel and the other the exquisite Côte-Rôties of Marius Gentaz.

At their best, these are the sorts of wines that amplify the sense of wonder at the heart of greatness. They are reminders that no matter how rationally we try to analyze wines, they show their true measure in the emotions they evoke.

Engel and Gentaz are great examples of wines that express all the distinctive beauty of their terroirs, enhanced by the personal touch of the winemaker. These two small family estates share another important characteristic: they no longer exist.

Few passages in family businesses are more difficult to negotiate than the leadership transition from one generation to the next. Ideally, it occurs seamlessly, the parent ceding control to the child while remaining available to offer occasional advice and encouragement. But it may happen abruptly, after sudden illness or death. It may be fierce, as when Oedipal drama interferes with judgment.

Or, as in the case of Engel and Gentaz, an estate hits a dead end, with no heirs to carry on.

It's in the nature of things that estates come and go. Most die off unmourned. Their wines were not distinctive enough, perhaps, to be irreplaceable. Yet for every great estate like Jean-Louis Chave of the northern Rhône, said to have made wine continuously since 1481, the annals are replete with names now consigned to history, their wines to be savored wistfully or sold at auction for outlandish prices born of increasing scarcity.

Henri Mayer, the legendary Burgundian vigneron, died in 2006 after retiring some years before. His vineyards are now farmed by

his nephew by marriage, Emmanuel Rouget, whose wines are well respected but not revered.

Raymond Trolat was for years the conscience of St.-Joseph, having adhered to traditional, back-breaking agricultural methods as others were taking easier paths. He retired in

another bottle.

Alberico Boncompagni Ludovisi, the prince of Venosa, produced his last wonderful bottles of Fiorano, from his estate within the city limits of Rome, in 1995. That year, for reasons he did not explain, he tore out his vineyard. The prince died in 2005, and after

accounts Philippe transformed a good producer into a terrific one. But he, too, died young, of a heart attack at 49 in 2005. With no heirs, it was sold to François Pinault, the billionaire who also owns Château Latour, and is now called Domaine d'Eugénie and is still discovering its personal-

ing, parties and traveling the world.

By contrast, Marius Gentaz never went far from his home in Ampuis. In many ways, his life had more in common with the 19th century than the 21st.

He farmed less than three acres on the dizzyingly steep slopes of Côte-Rôtie,



Bottles of red Burgundies from René Engel during a dinner celebrating the now lost estate, in New York. Engel is one of many names that have been consigned to wine history after the winemaker died with no heir to keep the business going.

(Michelle V. Agins/The New York Times)

2005 with no heirs. I read recently that a bottle of his St.-Joseph had sold at auction for \$600, a ridiculous price for what is essentially a rustic but soulful village wine, though perhaps not so ridiculous for the spirit of Raymond Trolat, which is irreplaceable.

Noël Verset played a similar role in Cornas, maintaining the ancient traditions of this northern Rhône village through many lean years until the rest of the world learned to appreciate the wines. Verset retired and sold off his vines, his wines surfacing occasionally like eloquent voices from the past.

Once, a friend opened a bottle of 1979 Barbaresco from Giovannini Moresco, a long-gone producer. What a beautiful legacy, pure, pale and elemental. It came and went so fast, and, sadly, I've never seen

years of legal wrangling, the estate was divided among his heirs, who replanted the vineyard. One day we'll see whether the new wines bear any relation to the old.

Continuity is easier in some regions.

In Bordeaux, for example, where so many chateaus are in the hands of corporations, it's more a matter of replacing employees and carrying on. But Bordeaux is not always so corporate. Jean-François Filastre, the proprietor of Domaine du Jaugaret, one of my favorite small Bordeaux estates, is 70 and has no heirs. I wonder what will happen to it.

If life were fair, René Engel would still be in the hands of the Engel family. Philippe Engel took over the estate in 1981 from his father, Pierre, who died young, and by all

ity.

At the small Engel dinner at DBGB on the Bowery, we drank six bottles of grand cru Burgundy: Clos Vougeots from 1999, '96, '91 and '90, and Grands Échézeaux from '99 and '98. As a group, the wines were elegant, subtle and complex, yet with a touch of rusticity that seemed to give them individuality. The '98 Grand Échézeaux especially stood out. It was beautifully calibrated and clear, spicy, floral and bursting with energy. The '99 Grand Échézeaux likewise showed great finesse, while the Clos Vougeots were richer and plumper, lovely but maybe not with the same sense of intricate detail.

We toasted the memory of Philippe Engel, and those who had known him told stories of this adventurous man who enjoyed boat-

and essentially made his wines, labeled Gentaz-Dervieux, by hand. He began in wine in 1947 with his father-in-law, then worked on his own from 1952 until 1993. When he retired, his vines went to his nephew, René Rostaing, who blends them into his excellent Côte-Rôties. But they are not Gentaz-Dervieux.

At the dinner, put on at Bar Boulud by the Rare Wine Co., an importer, several dozen of us drank 14 vintages from 1993 back to 1978. To drink any one of these bottles could have been the zenith of a wonderful meal; to have 14 was overwhelming. And each seemed to have a story to tell, about a place and a man and a time when life was lived locally.

Collectively, these were gentle wines, yet with a tensile strength that belied their graceful structure. □